01

TSURE × DURE CHILDREN

Toshiya Wakabayashi

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Tsure × dure CHILDREN

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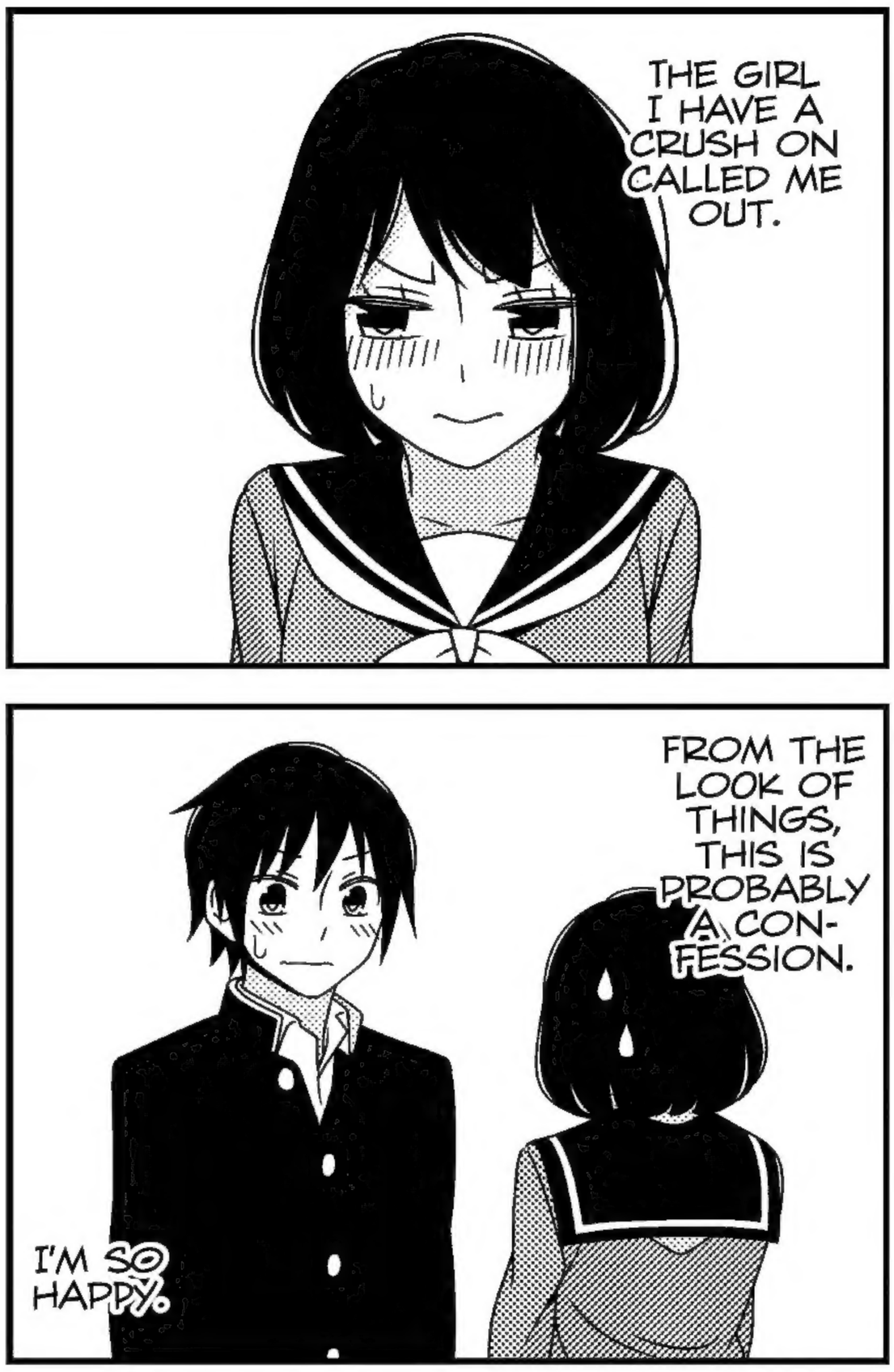
Confession


THE GIRL I HAVE A CRUSH ON CALLED ME OUT.
FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, THIS IS PROBABLY A CON-FESSION.
I'M SO HAPPY.
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
...

KRU

!

S-SAY, TAKASE ...

I-IS THERE ANYONE YOU LIKE AT THE MOMENT?!

WE'VE BEEN STANDING HERE FOR TEN MINUTES.

SHE STILL CAN'T MUSTER UP THE COURAGE?

HOW SHOULD I ANSWER IN THIS SITUATION?

IS IT COOL IF I JUST SAY "YOU!"?

H-HEY...

HMM...

AAH, BUT THAT'D BE LIKE HIJACKING HER CONFESSION...

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN SAY THERE ISN'T ANYONE...

TWITCH

WAIT!

TWITCH

WHA?!

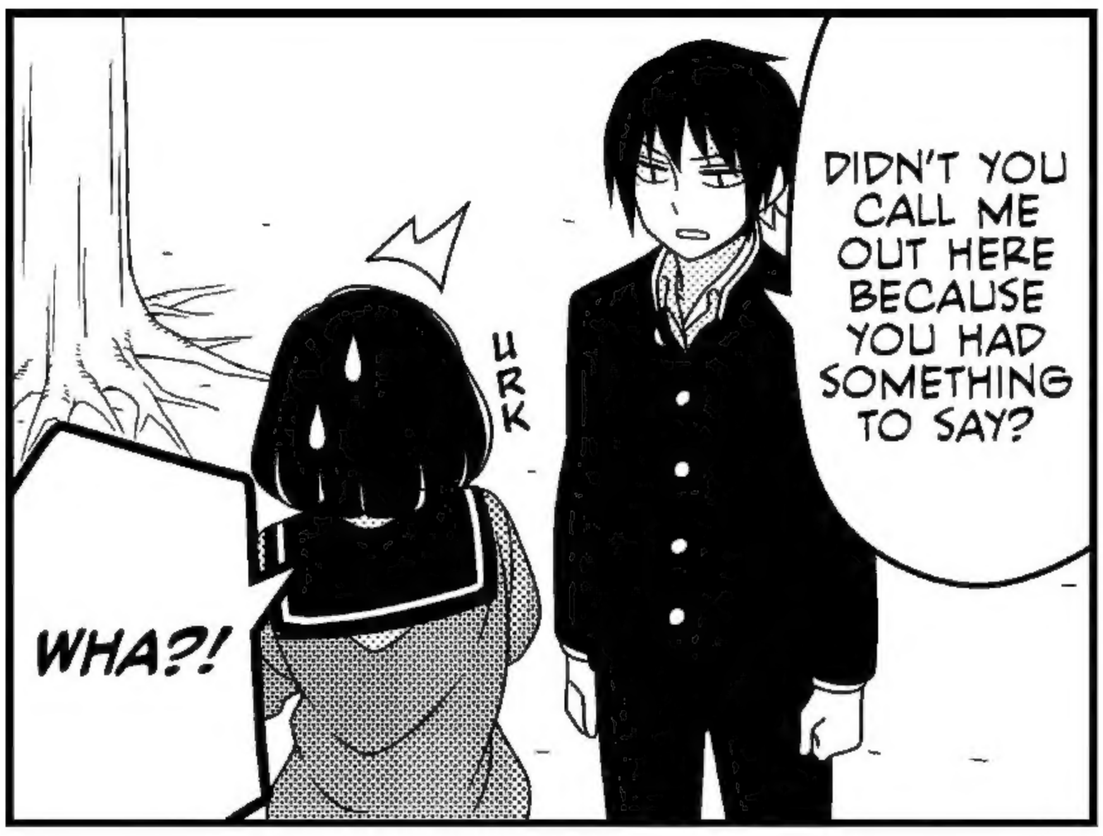
... WHAT, IS THERE?

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

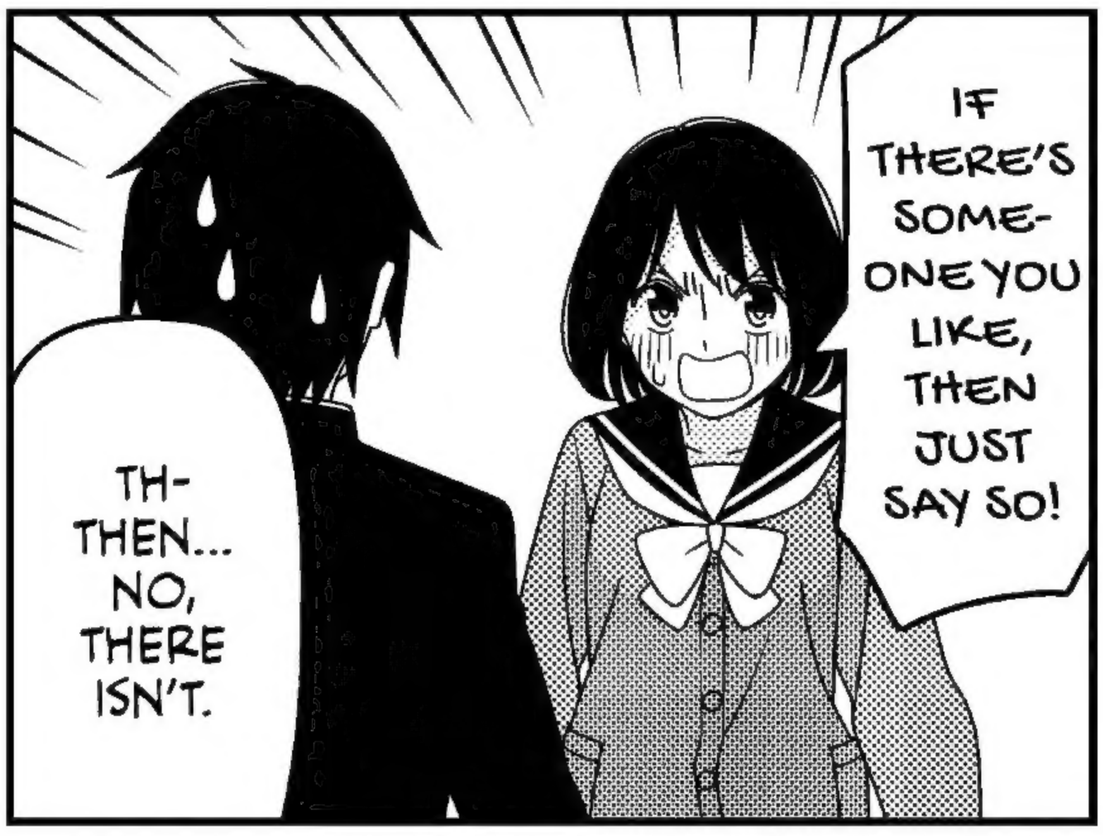
BA-DUM

BA-DUM


DIDN'T YOU CALL ME OUT HERE BECAUSE YOU HAD SOMETHING TO SAY?
URK
WHA?!

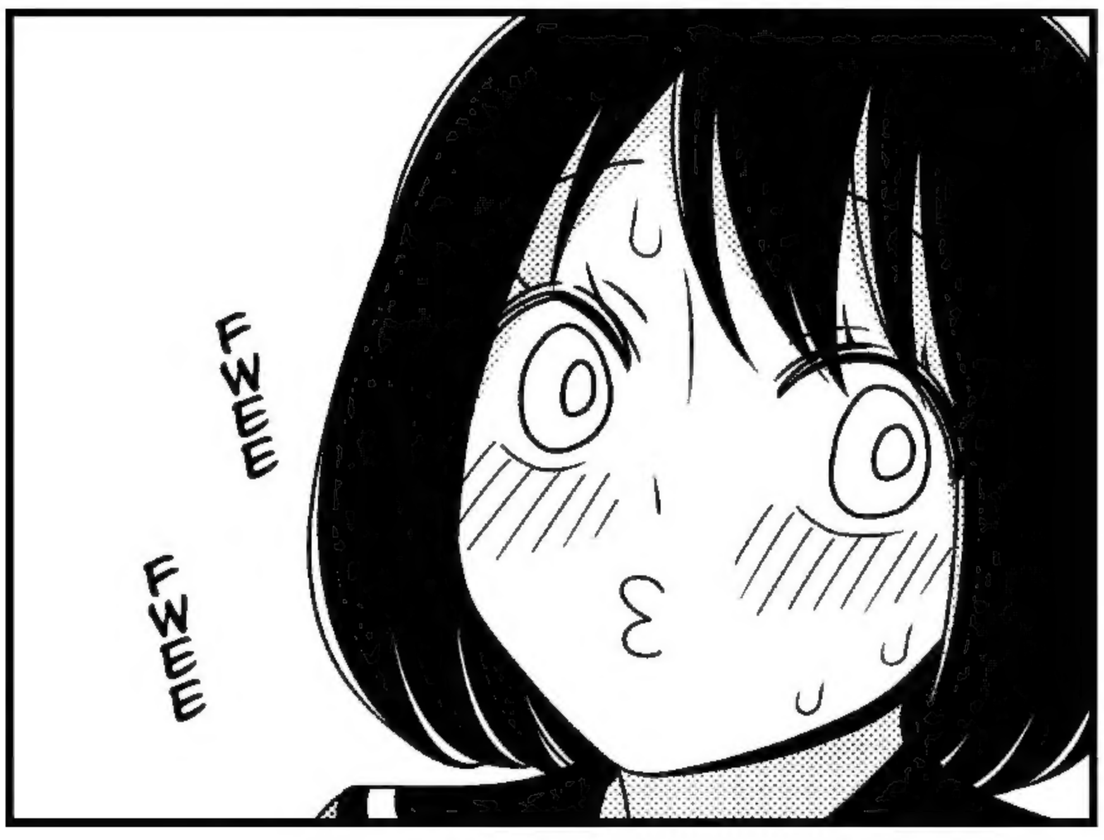
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN...
HUH?! I DON'T GET YOU!

I, ERR...
I WAS JUST CURIOUS IF YOU LIKED ANYONE.
RIGHT!


IF THERE'S SOME-ONE YOU LIKE, THEN JUST SAY SO!
TH-THEN... NO, THERE ISN'T.

...AND?
WHAT GOOD WILL KNOW-ING THAT DO?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THEN"?!
I'M SAYING THERE ISN'T, SO THERE!


FWEE
FWEE

...REALLY?
...

BRING IT ON!

GRAB

W-WAIT!

TWITCH

HUH?!

IF THAT'S ALL YOU WANT, THEN I'M JUST GONNA GO, OKAY?

ERR...

UMM...

W-WOULD YOU...

...I KINDA MISSED MY TIMING TODAY.

TH-THAT'S NOT ALL, BUT...

WILL YOU MEET ME HERE AGAIN TOMOR-ROW?!

WILL...

THEN I'M OUTTA HERE, ALL RIGHT?!

...HUH?

WAIT, ABOUT THAT...

I-I'M SORRY ABOUT TODAY.

I FORGOT WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY, AND...

SIGH...

I-I'LL SAY IT TO-MORROW, OKAY?!

YEP, I SHOULD PROBABLY SAY IT FIRST...

...TELL YOU I LIKE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

I-I'LL DEFI-NITELY...

BUT FIRST LET ME SAY-

YEAH, SURE...

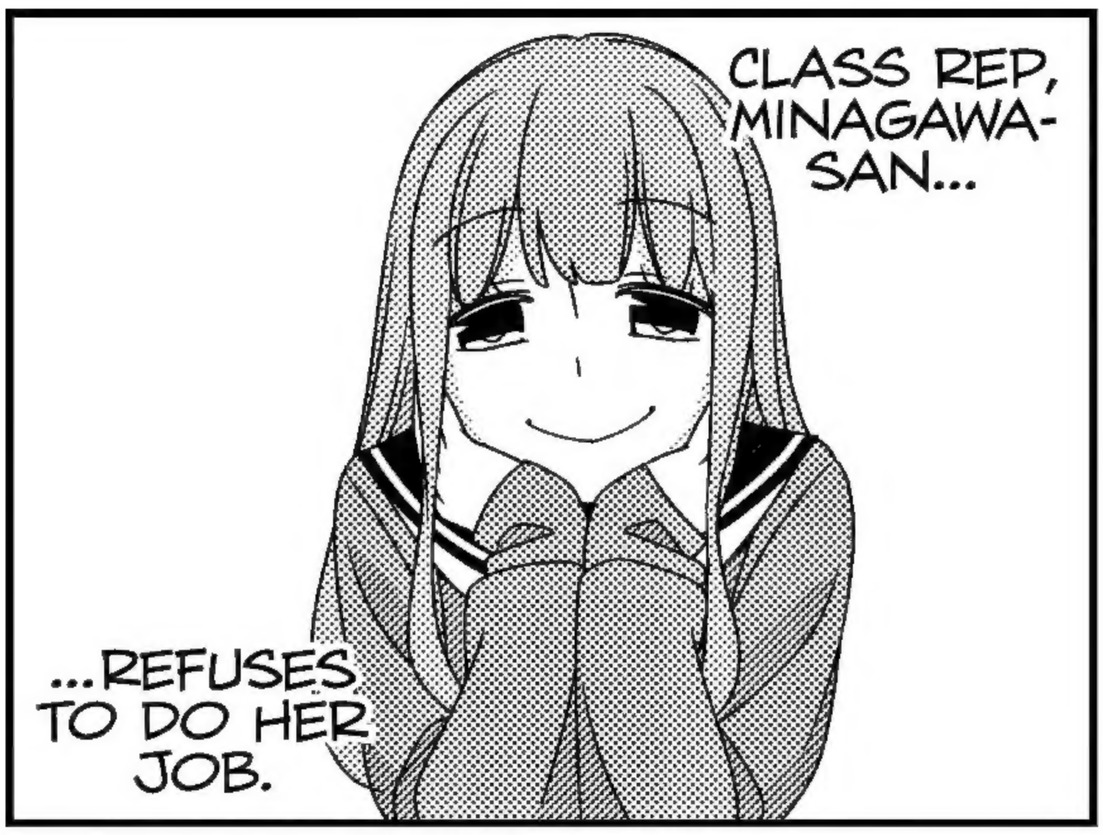
YOU'LL MEET ME HERE AGAIN?!

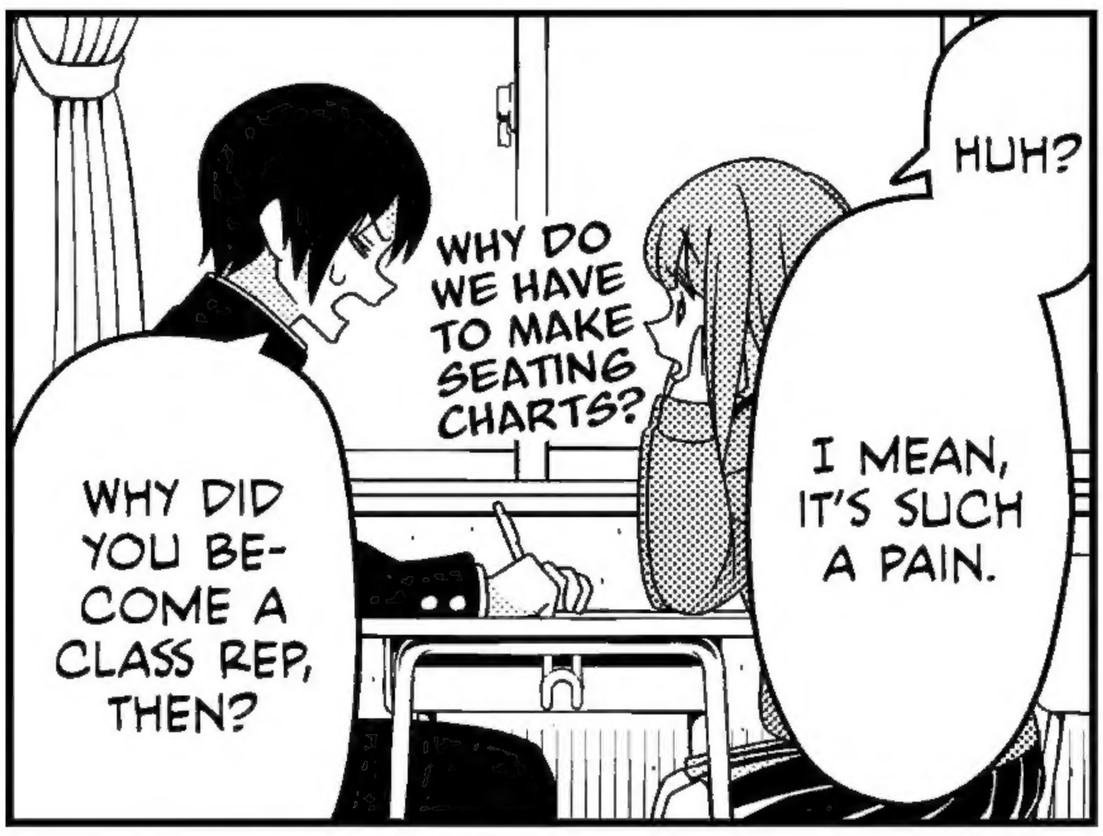
REALLY?

END

OKAY! SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

Insincere Girl





UH-HUH!

WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?

WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A CONFES-SION OR SOME-THING?!

UH-OH. ARE YOU MAD?

CAN YOU STOP TEAS-ING ME?

...ARE FOOLING AROUND WITH A NUMBER OF GUYS.

BUT THERE'S A RUMOR THAT YOU...

ERR...

I-I'M NOT ANGRY, JUST...

I'M SORRY.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU ANGRY.

BUT I'M A VIRGIN.

BUT I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT LIKING YOU.

...!

SORRY, SORRY.

I KNEW IT! YOU ARE MESSING WITH ME!

O-OH. HMM...

I HAVE GUY FRIENDS, SURE.

BUT WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT.

AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE SERIOUS OR NOT.

I MEAN, THIS KINDA THING IS JUST SO AWKWARD, RIGHT?

THAT'S NOT IT...

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

...WILL YOU ANSWER ME SERI-OUSLY?

THEN IF I TELL YOU SINCERELY ...

N-NO, I...

YOU THINK I'M THE KIND OF GIRL WHO'D SLEEP WITH JUST ANY-ONE, DON'T YOU?

t

NO, I DO NOT!

YOU FANTASIZE ABOUT ME HAVING SEX AND AGONIZ-INGLY...

I, UH...

SO?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, FURUYA-KUN?

BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU THAT WELL, MINAGA-WA-SAN.

A-ANSWER YOU?

...AT THIS POINT, ANYWAY, BUT...

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT DATING ...

THERE ARE PLENTY OF GUYS YOU COULD-

AND WHY ME, ANY-WAY?

GRIN GRIN

I LIKE YOU.

SHAKE

SHAKE

AH...

ER...

YEAH!

I HATE HOW YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP JOKING AROUND!

DO YOU HATE ME NOW?

I MEAN, YOU'RE JUST SO CUTE!

WHAT'RE YOU SMIRKING FOR?!

L-LIKE I SAID, THAT CONVER-SATION IS...

THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST TURN ME DOWN?

C'MON!

I HAVEN'T HEARD YOUR ANSWER YET!

THIS CON-VERSA-TION IS OVER!

GUESS YOU DON'T MIND SO MUCH, AFTER ALL, HUH?!

...YOU'LL JUST START SMIRKING AGAIN, RIGHT?

EVEN IF I TRY TO ANSWER...

END

I LOATHE YOU!

YEP!

I'm Gonna Kill Sempai

SOR-RRY!

DID I RUB SALT IN YOUR WOUNDS?

NO... NOT REALLY.

SAY WHAT?! REALLY?!

SAY WHAT?!

KATORI-SEMPAI ...

I'M NOT FEELING WELL TODAY, SO...

BUT YOU BRAVELY CON-FESSED YOUR FEELINGS, RIGHT?

I THINK THAT'S AMAZING.

...SO I COULDA SWORN YOU WERE HEART-BROKEN!

☆ TWINKLE

YOU LOOKED DOWN IN THE DUMPS...

RIGHT NOW, YOUR FACE...

...IS SHINING BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN!

A+!

PISSED

BULL'S-EYE?!

SAY WHAT?

NO WAY!

GASP!
AH! SORRY!
MY HAND SLIPPED ...
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
HUH? NOT AT ALL!
I WAS JUST TRY-ING TO CHEER YOU UP.
PUNCH ME TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
HUH?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHEER ME UP...
ARE YOU MAD?
BUT THE ONE YOU TRULY WANT TO PUNCH...
...IS NONE OTHER THAN YOUR-SELF, RIGHT?
BUT IN HERE...
...YOU'RE CRYIN' A RIVER, AIN'T YA?
TAP TAP
WHACK
WHAP

NO, I'M GOOD...

WHY WOULD YOU GO THAT FAR, ANYWAY?

IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANNA GET OFF YOUR CHEST, SPILL IT!

PERISH THE THOUGHT!

YOU *ARE* MAKING FUN OF ME!

SENIOR.

ME.

!

...MADE YOU FEEL A LITTLE BETTER, RIGHT?

AND PUNCH-ING ME...

JUNIOR.

YOU.

SEMPAI DID ALL THIS ON PURPOSE FOR ME...?

HE'S RIGHT. I DON'T FEEL SAD ANYMORE.

SHAKE SHAKE

FEEL ME?

...I DON'T FEEL GRATEFUL IN THE SLIGHTEST.

THAT BEING SAID...

NOTH-
ING.

PLEASE
DON'T
LOOK
AT ME.

HM?
WHAT'S
UP?

LET'S
GO.

ALRIGHTY!
YOU CAN
COME
TO CLUB
NOW,
RIGHT?

OH,
SURE...

YOU'RE
JUST SO
DAZZLING.
I'M SOWWY!

SO
SOWWY!

SORRY!

DID YOU
FALL FOR
ME?

KATORI-
SEMPAI
MAY BE
ANNOYING,
BUT HE'S
GENERALLY
A NICE
PERSON.

ALBEIT
ANNOYING.

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP

IT
JUST ISN'T
THE SAME
WITHOUT
OUR CLUB'S
IDOL
AROUND!

GREAT,
GREAT!

END

WHOO

...

REALLY
ANNOYING...

Woes of the Student Council President

THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT CAUGHT ME SMOKING.
I'M SCREWED.
AKAGI!
ARE YOU GONNA SNITCH ON ME TO THE TEACHER?!
THAT'S NO GOOD, KAJI-SAN.
'ZAT RIGHT? GLAD WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE.
NO, I'M NOT THAT CRUEL.
I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME.
IF YOU KISS ME, THAT IS.

I'M JUST NOT INTER-ESTED IN GIRLS.

I DON'T SEE THE APPEAL IN DATING.

SO YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE WITH A KISS?

FINE BY ME.

SOUNDS INTER-ESTING.

I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO KISS.

I'M VERY SERI-OUS.

I HAVE A BIT OF A PROBLEM, YOU SEE.

HUH?

ARE YOU SCREW-IN' WITH ME?

HUH?!

SURE YOU'RE NOT JUST GAY?

THE THING IS, I'VE NEVER FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A GIRL.

NO NEED.

I ALREADY KNOW HOW TO KISS.

DON'T WORRY.

I'VE ALREADY TESTED THAT.

...OH.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT.

...WHA?

TESTED WHAT?!

I KNOW OF A LUCRATIVE PART-TIME JOB.

WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT MUCH CASH?!

ME? NO WAY!

HUH ?!

ARE YOU SCARED?

SHAKE SHAKE

?!

ZIIIIP

NOT LIKE IT'S MY FIRST OR ANY-THING.

WHAT-EVER.

YOU'RE MORE COOP-ERATIVE THAN I EXPECT-ED.

HOW MUCH WILL YOU SELL YOUR BODY FOR, THEN?

REALLY?

I'LL DO IT WITH ANYONE WHO BRINGS ENOUGH CASH, Y'KNOW!

100 GRAND*, I GUESS?

UH...

*APPROX. $1,000

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.

OF COURSE.

YOU OWE ME FOR LET-TING YOU OFF THE HOOK.

Y-YOU ARE?!

HUH ?!

DON'T SCREW WITH ME!

YOU'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SOLD YOURSELF, HAVE YOU?

N-NO.

WHY SHOULD I BE?

ARE YOU SCARED?

...

THAT PROVES YOU'VE NEVER WHORED YOURSELF OUT.

PEOPLE DON'T USUAL-LY ASK FOR 100 GRAND A LAY.

ALL RIGHT. HERE WE GO.

...

AKAGI ...

YOU SHOULD CHERISH YOURSELF MORE, KAJI-SAN.

BUT REALLY, EVEN 100 GRAND IS TOO CHEAP.

...

YOU REEK OF CIGS.

...I'M STILL GOING TO KISS YOU.

WELL, THAT BEING SAID...

HNH...

MM...

G-GIMME A BREAK!

I CAN'T HELP THAT!

YOU STINK, KAJI-SAN.

KAJI-SAN, YOU STINK.

...

HUFF

AH, SHUT UP!

WHO ARE YOU, MY BOY-FRIEND?!

YOU SHOULD QUIT SMOKING.

...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FALL FOR YOU, KAJI-SAN.

I GET THE FEELING ...

THAT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD.

DROP DEAD!

END

IF YOU STOP SMOKING, THAT IS.

MMF...

Spica

YUGAWA-SEMPAI FROM OUR ASTRON-OMY CLUB...
...IS GRADUATING TOMORROW.
NO WAY.
SEM-PAAAI!
YOU'RE TOO LOUD, SASA-HARA.
SHOW ME THE STARS TONIGHT!
UGH, RUDE!
YEAH? HOW MANY TIMES DOES THAT MAKE IT NOW?
I'M SICK OF HEARING IT.
AND HERE I WAS THINKING ABOUT CONFESS-ING TO YOU!
THIS IS A BAD HABIT OF MINE.
I ALWAYS MAKE LIGHT OF MY OWN FEELINGS.
BUSTED?

TONIGHT, I WANT TO TELL SEMPAI I LIKE HIM...

THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU'LL WATCH THE STARS FROM HERE, HUH?

UH-HUH.

SEM-PAI!

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO SET THE MOOD FIRST.

CAN I SNUGGLE UP TO YOU? IT'S COLD.

AND THIS IS THE LAST TIME...

...WE'LL WATCH THE STARS TO-GETHER, HUH?

GUESS SO.

BA-DUM BA-DUM BA-DUM BA-DUM BA-DUM BA-DUM

HE HE HE.

SURE.

JUST DON'T GET IN THE WAY.

WHILE I'M AT IT, YOU CAN PUSH ME DOWN AND...

FLUS TER

WELL, I GUESS WE COULD WATCH THEM TOGETHER ANYTIME, RIGHT?!

GOD, YOU'RE NOISY...

...HUH?

...'SCUSE ME.

THAT'S YOUR FAULT, SEMPAI!

YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO SCARY!

GET IT TO-GETH-ER.

YOU'RE GONNA BE THE ONLY CLUB MEMBER NEXT YEAR, Y'KNOW.

URK

HUH?!

OH, PLEASE. BECAUSE OF LOVE!

THEN WHY DID YOU JOIN IN THE FIRST PLACE?

...

YEAH, YEAH.

I'M LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A LOVING JUNIOR.

...WOULD YOU BE HAPPY?

IF I REALLY DID LIKE YOU...

HUH?!

I, UHH...

URK

SASA-HARA,

DO YOU REMEM-BER THE NAMES OF ANY STARS?

THAT'S THE FIRST ONE I TAUGHT YOU.

SPICA, FOR ONE...

...THAT YOU TAUGHT ME, SEMPAI.

I'LL NEVER FOR-GET THE NAMES OF THE STARS...

ER, UHHH...

TRY POINTING OUT SPICA, THEN.

NOW I'VE DONE IT.

I CAN'T TELL HIM MY FEELINGS NOW.

EVEN IF I DO, HE WON'T BELIEVE ME.

I SAID IT!

I TOLD HIM MY FEELINGS WITHOUT JOKING AROUND!

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS...

...I'VE TOLD HIM I LIKE HIM COUNTLESS TIMES...

...BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SAY I MEAN IT.

WILL YUGAWA-SEMPAI BE HAPPY THOUGH?

MAYBE NOT...

SEMPAI'S GOING TO GRADUATE.

I'LL NEVER...

...BE ABLE TO TELL HIM I LIKE HIM AGAIN.

HUH? WHAT'S WITH THIS MOOD?

DID I MESS UP?!

OH, GOD. OH, GOD. OH, GOD...

SASA-HARA...

OH, GOD...

I'M GONNA CRY!

DID YOU TAKE ME SERI-OUSLY ?!

AH HA HA HA HA!

JUUUST KID-DING!

!

WH-WHAT?! THAT'S MEAN!

TWITCH

...

I'M SICK OF HEARING YOU SAY YOU LIKE ME.

THAT CONSTELLATION THERE IS SPICA.

I DON'T WANT TO CRY IN FRONT OF SEMPAI!

LISTEN UP, FIRST-YEAR!

NO, NO, NO!

I WOULDN'T MIND HEARING IT ONE MORE TIME BEFORE I LEAVE.

BUT THIS IS MY LAST NIGHT HERE.

IF YOU JOIN THE ASTRONOMY CLUB, YOU'LL LEARN ALL SORTS...

I JUST WANT HIM TO SMILE LIKE BACK THEN.

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HIM WORRIED, AND I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE AWKWARD.

SHEMPAAAI!

IF YOU WON'T SAY IT,

THEN I WILL.

DON'T CRY. DON'T CRY. DON'T CRY. DON'T CRY. DON'T CRY.

DON'T CRY. DON'T CRY. DON'T CRY.

END

STOP CRYING, DUMMY.

I REALLY, REALLY LIKE YOOOU!

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

DON'T CRYYY!

Rain

IT RAINED, DESPITE THE FORECAST FOR TODAY.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
IT'S SUGAWARA-KUN FROM MY CLASS.
WE'VE BARELY TALKED BEFORE.
TAKA-NO?
FORGET YOUR UMBREL-LA?
BUT ...
I'LL RUN HOME.
YOU CAN BOR-ROW MINE.
HUH?
TRIP

OH, DON'T MIND ME.

YOUR SHOULDER'S GETTING WET.

I FEEL BAD...

...SO I'VE DECIDED TO GO HOME PARTWAY WITH HIM.

WHY DON'T YOU COME CLOSER, THEN?

N-NOT REALLY.

SORRY.

IT'S EMBARRASSING GOING HOME WITH A GIRL, ISN'T IT?

...

...IF IT'S WITH YOU.

I'M FINE ...

TWITCH

!

PULL

SORRY, A LITTLE MORE.

...

DOES HE MEAN RUMORS WON'T SPREAD IF IT'S WITH ME?

THAT'S GOOD, I GUESS.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT RO-MANCE.

IN THAT CASE,

WHAT IF SOME-ONE CON-FESSED TO YOU?

A-AREN'T YOU EMBAR-RASSED, TAKA-NO?

NOT REALLY.

NO ONE'S WATCHING.

DOING THIS WITH A GUY, I MEAN.

I DON'T THINK ANY-ONE WOULD.

JUST WHAT IF.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

B-BUT ...

...WHAT IF SOME-ONE LIKE YOUR CRUSH ...

...CATCH-ES US TO-GETH-ER?

HMM ...

TURN THEM DOWN, I GUESS.

WHAT-EVER.

I DON'T HAVE ANYONE LIKE THAT.

...

WHY ARE YOU GRIN-NING?

TWITCH
WERE YOU ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING?
HUH?! NO...
IT'S NOTHING.
OH...
WELL, SEE YOU.
I MEAN, ANYONE WHO CONFESSES TO SOMEONE LIKE ME...
HAS GOT TO BE A WEIRDO.
WH-WHY?
BEEP
LOVE, HUH?
THAT MIGHT BE TOO MUCH FOR ME.
I'M NOT CUTE,
AND I'M GLOOMY.
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE!
SUGAWARA-KUN IS KIND, SO I BET HE'S POPU-
HM?
HE'S GONE.
I KNOW ALL THE EFFORT YOU PUT IN!
THAT'S WHY, I...
YOU ALWAYS HELP OTHERS CLEAN UP.
AND YOU TAKE CARE OF THE FISH EVERY DAY.
PSHH
OH.
I HAVE TO CATCH THE BUS HERE.
THANKS FOR THE UMBRELLA.

TWITCH

HUH?!

YOU'RE TRYING TO CHEER ME UP, RIGHT?

I'LL DO MY BEST.

ABOUT WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY EARLIER ...

I THINK I SHOULD SAY IT, AFTER ALL.

HUH?!

WHAT'S UP?

NO, I...

Y-YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

OR MAYBE NOT?

UMM...

I...

PSHH

HUH?

OKAY ...

WELL ...

GUESS I'LL GET OFF HERE.

...YOU ...

TAKANO.

I LIKE...

END

MAYBE I'LL BAKE COOKIES FOR HIM AS THANKS FOR THE UMBRELLA.

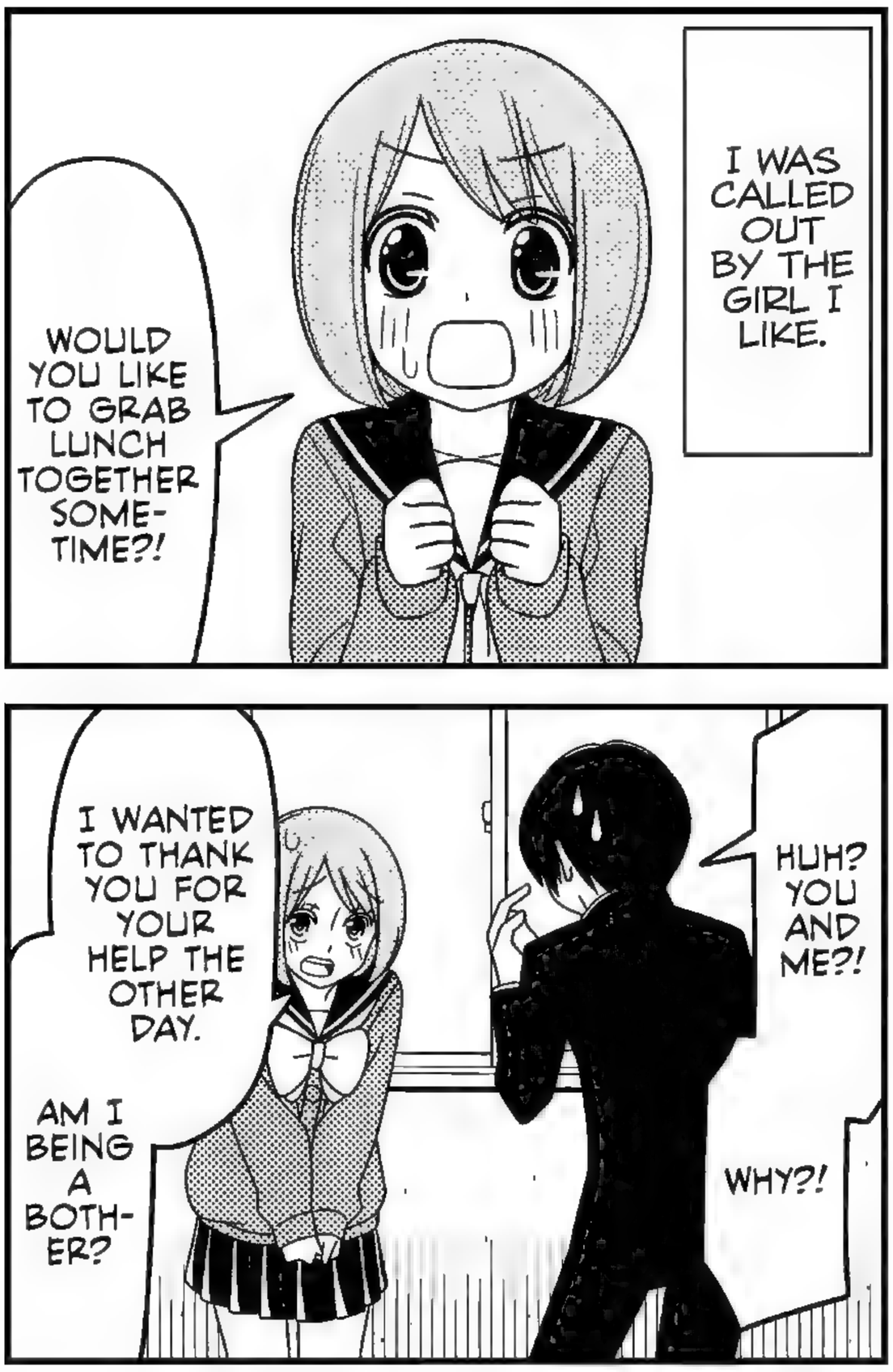
SUGAWARA-KUN REALLY IS A NICE GUY.

...HM?

...

THANKS.

Love is Lame


I WAS CALLED OUT BY THE GIRL I LIKE.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GRAB LUNCH TOGETHER SOME-TIME?!
I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP THE OTHER DAY.
AM I BEING A BOTH-ER?
HUH? YOU AND ME?!
WHY?!
N-NO, NOT AT ALL, JUST...
GREAT! I'LL SEE YOU ON SUNDAY, THEN!
TAP TAP TAP TAP
WHAT THE HELL?! WHY WOULD A CUTE GIRL LIKE HER ASK AN UGLY CHUMP LIKE ME OUT?!
I CAN'T FATHOM-IT! WHAT GIVES? IS SHE STUPID? DO-HO! TOO RICH!

I MIGHT'VE COME TOO EARLY.

SUNDAY

WE ALWAYS HAPPEN TO CATCH THE SAME BUS.

I'VE SECRETLY HAD A CRUSH ON HER-ALL THIS TIME.

OF COURSE, I'VE NEVER MUSTERED UP THE COURAGE TO TALK TO HER.

ARE MY CLOTHES LAME?

THEY'RE ALL FROM SHIMAMURA*.

WAIT, WAIT! I SHOULDN'T BADMOUTH SHIMAMURA!

THEN, ONE DAY...

!

A MOLESTER?!

RUB

RUB

*AN AFFORDABLE JAPANESE CLOTHING CHAIN.

HOLD UP, WILL SHE REALLY COME, ANYWAY?

WHY WOULD A GIRL LIKE HER EVER INVITE ME OUT TO LUNCH?

I SEE. IT MUST'VE BEEN IN MY HEAD ALL ALONG.

QED.

F-FOW YA BUN?

I MEAN, HOW YA BEEN?!

6-6-GOOD MORN-IN6!

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING!

I THOUGHT FOR SURE SHE WAS CREEPED OUT AT THE TIME...

...BUT TO THINK SHE ACTUALLY WANTS TO THANK ME!

HUH?!

YAMANE-SAN, WAS IT?

WHERE SHOULD WE GO TO EAT?

IT'S MY TREAT.

BWAHHH!

THOSE CLOTHES DEFINITELY AREN'T FROM SHIMAMURA!

WHAT THE HELL? SHE LOOKS ADORABLE!

I BET SHE GOT THEM AT HARAJUKU* OR SOME-THING!

*A TRENDY FASHION DISTRICT IN TOKYO.

WHAT SHOULD I SAY IN THIS KINDA SITUA-TION?

I CAN'T JUST SUGGEST SOME-WHERE PRICEY...

...BUT SOME-WHERE TACKY WON'T DO, EITHER.

A CHEAP, BUT CHIC PLACE!!

UMM ...

IT'S KIND OF EMBAR-RASSING IF YOU STARE SO MUCH...

!

TWITCH

I-IN THAT CASE,

I KNOW OF A CHEAP, BUT CHIC RESTAU-RANT.

WHERE?

I WASN'T STARING!

AND I WASN'T THINKING YOU LOOK CUTE OR ANY-THING!

IT'S CALLED SAIZERIYA*.

RIGHT! YOUR CLOTHES! YOUR CLOTHES ARE CUTE!

I MEAN, I DO THINK YOU LOOK CUTE, BUT...

WAIT! NOT JUST YOUR CLOTH-ES...

*A CHAIN ITALIAN RESTAURANT KNOWN FOR ITS CHEAP MENU.

YOU KNOW,

I AC-TUALLY NOTICED YOU ON THE BUS WE TAKE IN THE MORNING.

TWITCH

WHA?!

S-SURE.

ADD SOFT-BOILED EGGS IF YOU WANT.

N-NO NEED TO HOLD BACK, OKAY?

YOU OFTEN GIVE YOUR SEAT TO THE ELDERLY, RIGHT?

W-WELL, Y'KNOW. A GOOD DEED NOW AND THEN HELPS.

I PRAC-TICALLY RADIATE SUSPICION, AFTER ALL!

N-NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT!

I'LL HEAD HOME AFTER I EAT.

SHOULD WE ORDER THE DRINK BAR, TOO?

BUT,

WHEN YOU SAVED ME, YAMANE-SAN, YOU WERE...

UMM...

I MEAN, I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME, YOU KNOW!

IN FACT, I'D LIKE TO STAY AS LONG AS POS-SIBLE!

OH, OKAY ...

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU RE-MEM-BER THAT!

TWITCH

HUH?! IT'S FINE...

DON'T WORRY! I'LL GO HOME!

OH, BUT THAT'S KINDA CREEPY, HUH?!

I MIGHT'VE BEEN POPULAR BACK IN THE HEIAN ERA, BUT THIS IS HEISEI, Y'KNOW!

OH, IS SHE JOKING?! OR MAYBE SHE MEANS I'D MAKE A GOOD MASCOT CHARAC-TER OR SOME-THING...

MAN, JUST HOW HOPE-LESS CAN I BE?

SHAKE

SHAKE

AND SHE WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO INVITE ME OUT TO LUNCH.

WHAT? WHY IS SHE LOOKING AT ME SO SERIOUSLY? FOR REA
NO, THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
THERE'S
ABOUT
YOUR T
I'D GET
RUS
REA
ATTRA
BE F
WOR
ONL
ART'S NO
OR THIS!
*SEMA
DOMAN
SEMAN-
DOMAN!
SEMAN-
DOMAN!

UMM.

IF YOU'D BE INTER-ESTED...

WOULD YOU...

HWAH ?!

YOU'RE FUNNY, YAMANE-SAN.

OH, YOU MEAN MY FACE?

I GET THAT A LOT.

*A WARD AGAINST EVIL ORIGINATING FROM *ONMYODO* PRACTICES.

DING DONG

BOOP

OULD
U LIKE
GO
UT—

I THINK YOUR FACE...

...IS QUITE NICE, TOO.

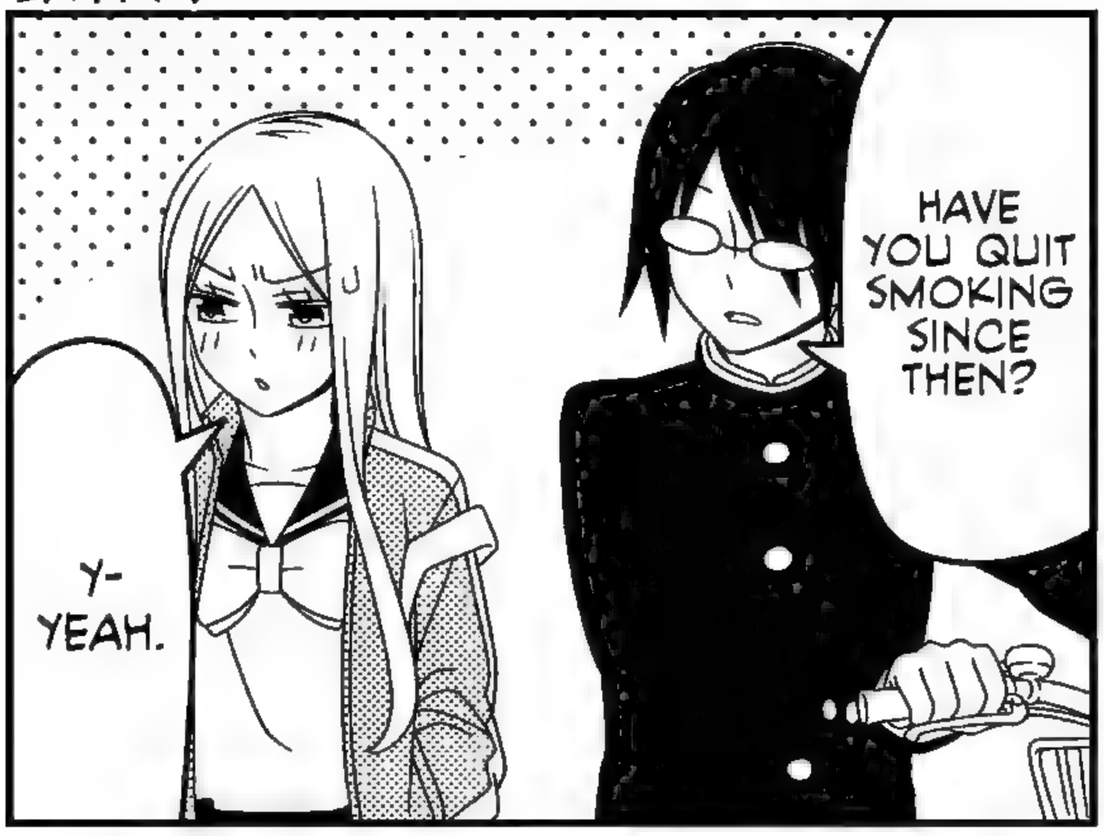
END

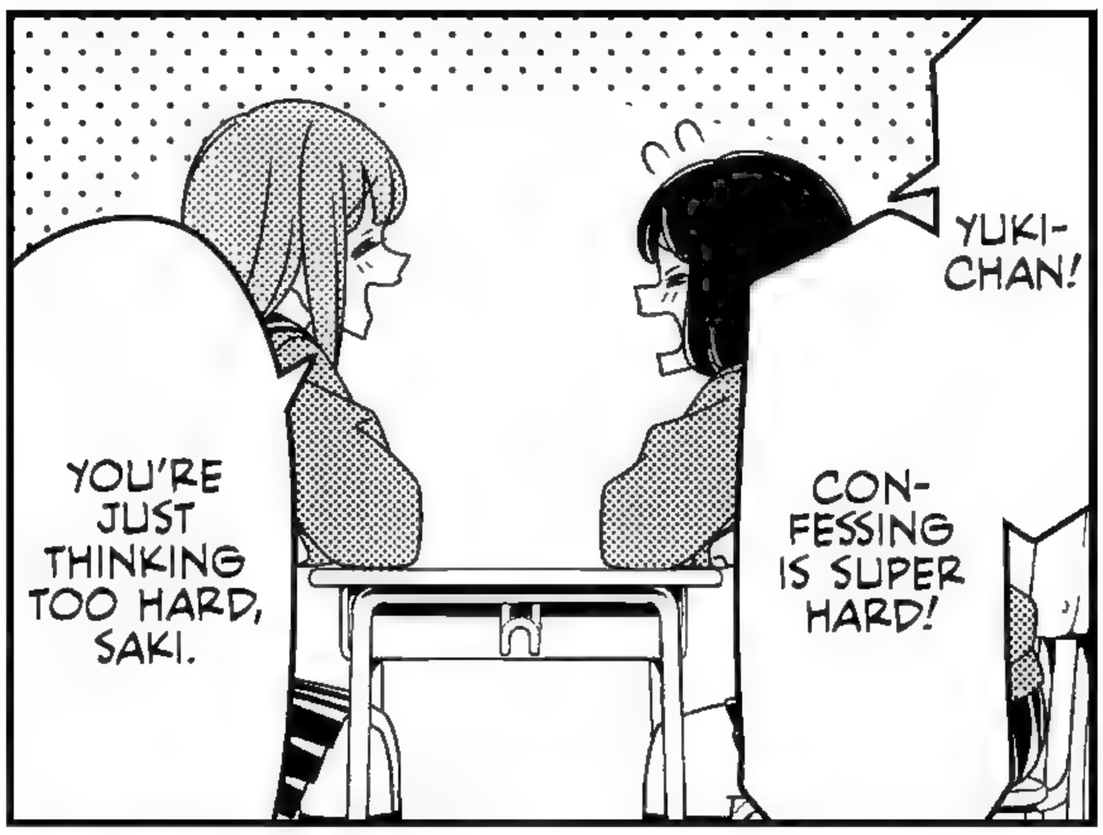
WE'D LIKE TO ADD THE DRINK BAR, PLEASE.

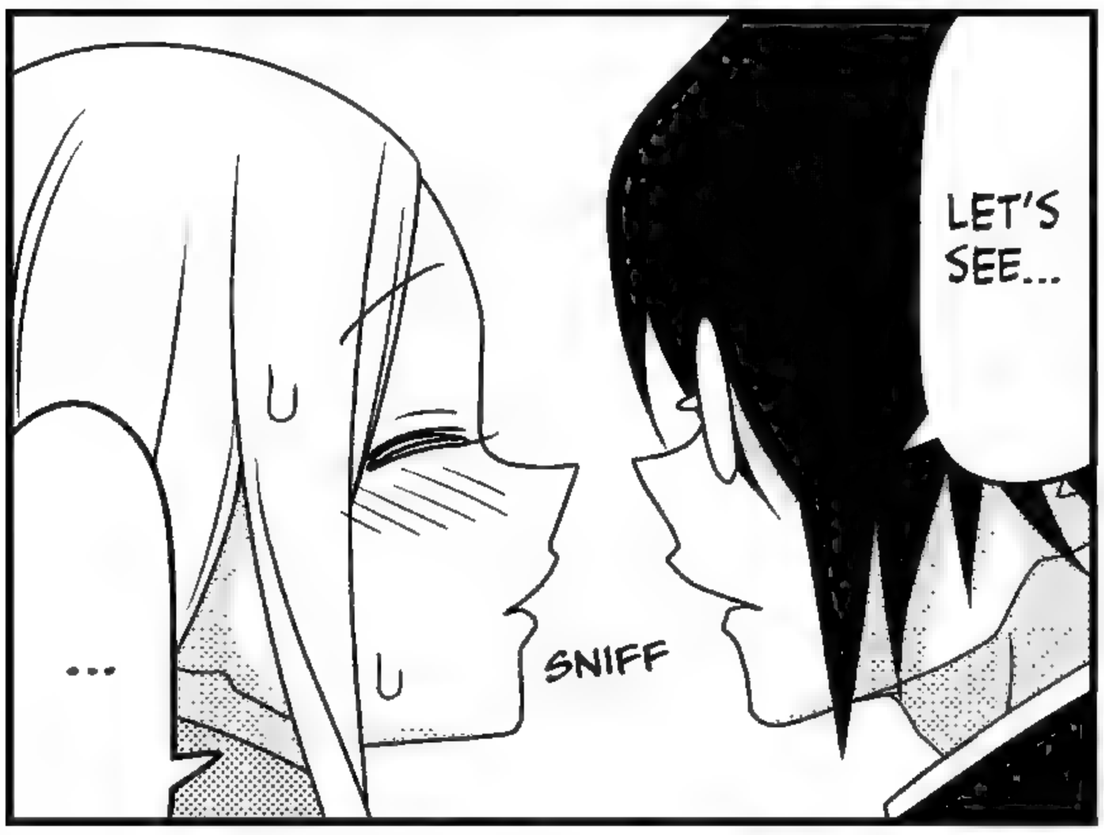
TSURE × DURE

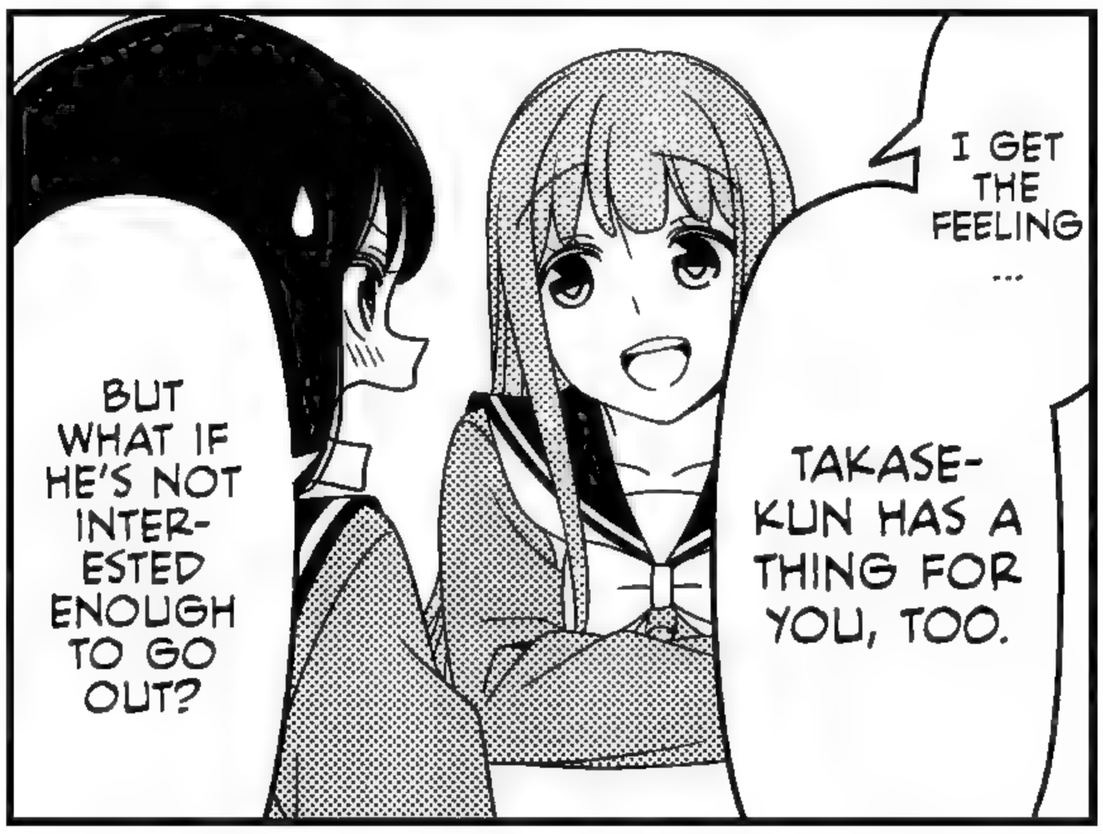
CHILDREN

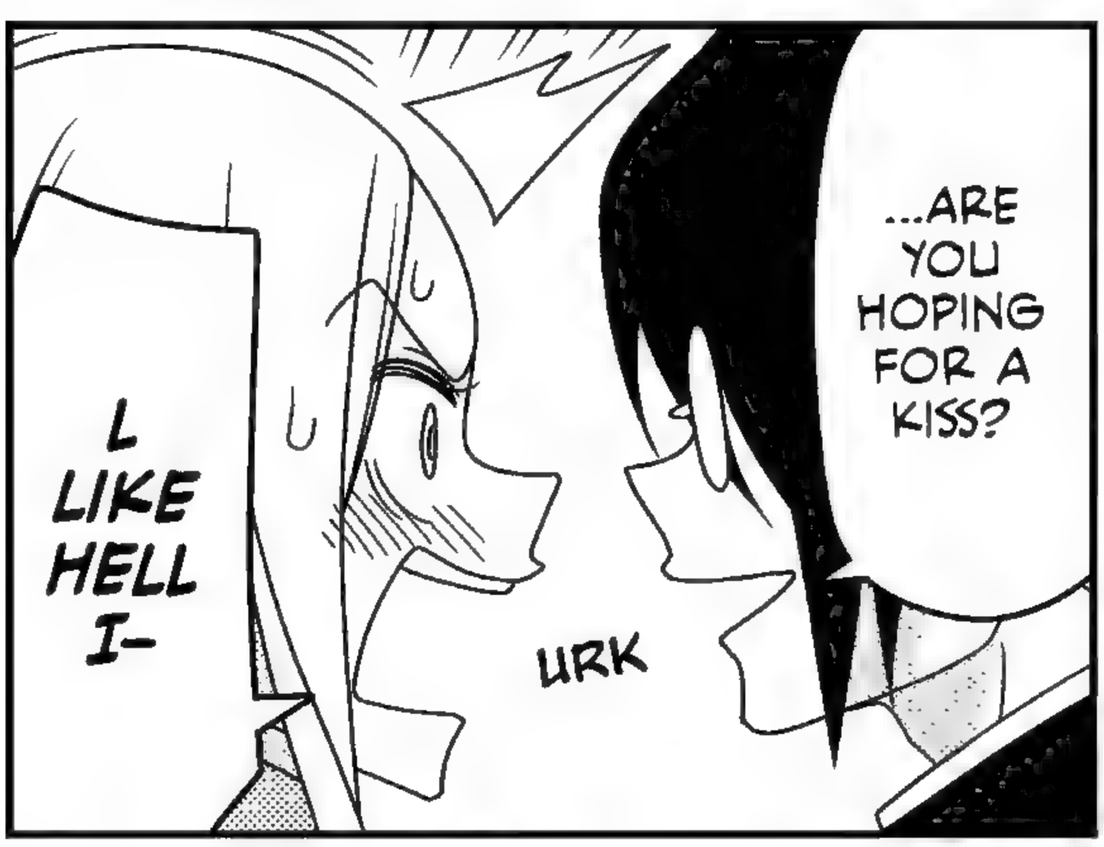
EXTRA


HAVE YOU QUIT SMOKING SINCE THEN?
Y- YEAH.

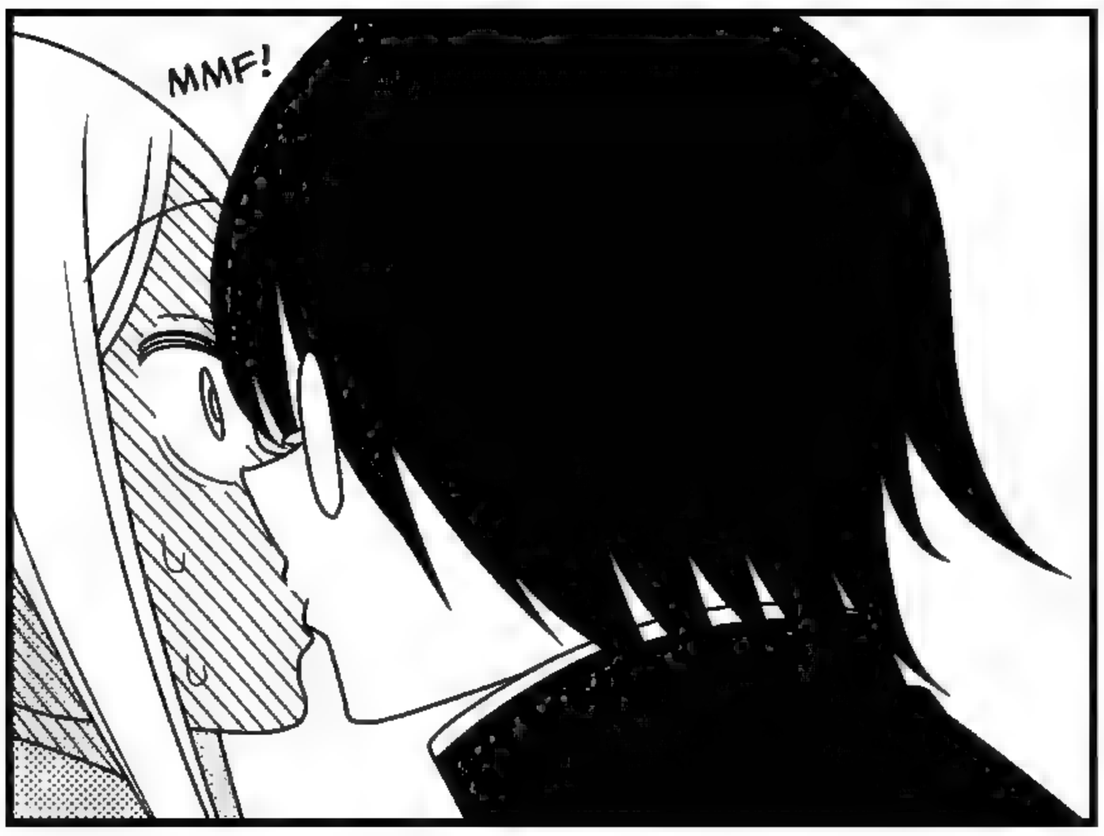

YUKI-CHAN!
YOU'RE JUST THINKING TOO HARD, SAKI.
CON-FESSING IS SUPER HARD!

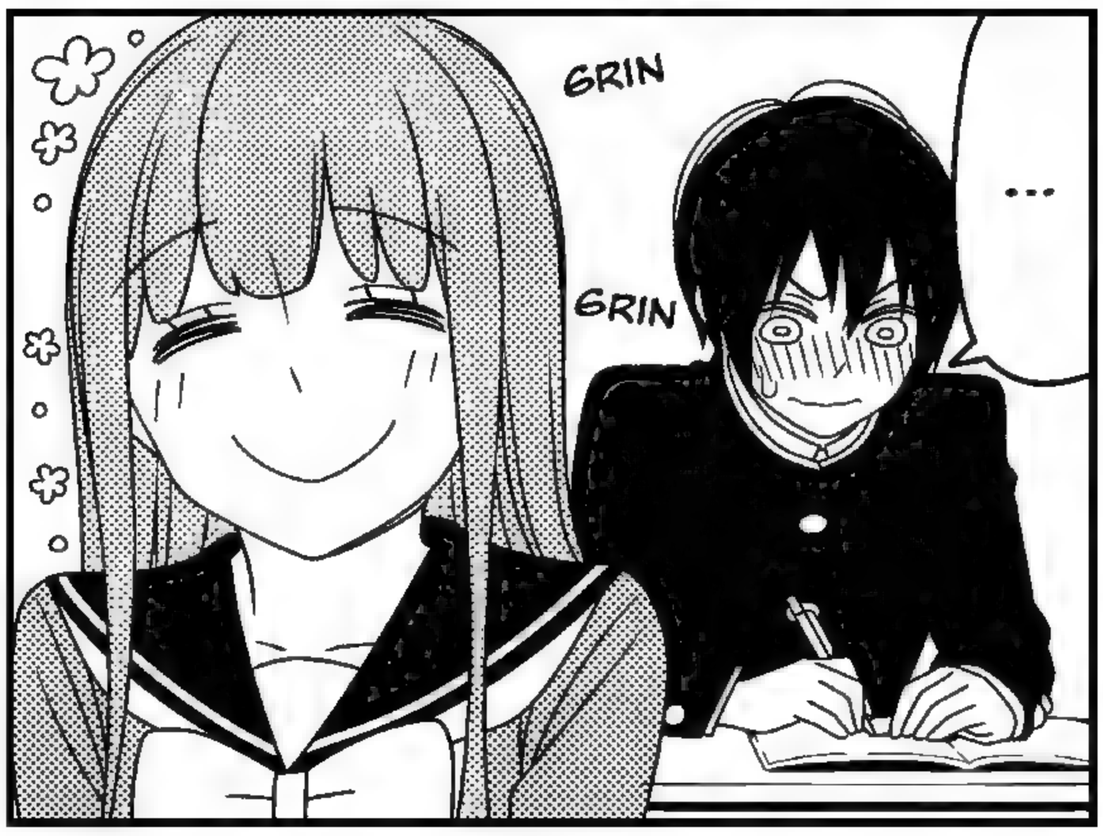

LET'S SEE...
U
U
...
SNIFF


I GET THE FEELING ...
BUT WHAT IF HE'S NOT INTER-ESTED ENOUGH TO GO OUT?
TAKASE-KUN HAS A THING FOR YOU, TOO.


...ARE YOU HOPING FOR A KISS?
L LIKE HELL I-
URK

GOOD POINT.
IT'D SUCK TO GET AN UNCLEAR ANSWER.


MMF!


GRIN
GRIN
...

SUGA-WARA-KUN.

THANKS AGAIN FOR THE OTHER DAY.

EAT THESE, IF YOU'D LIKE.

TELL ME YOU LIKE ME, TOO, SEMPAI!

IT'S NO FAIR IF YOU JUST MAKE ME SAY IT!

HUH?

HUH?!

WEREN'T YOU REJECTED, SUGAYAN?!

TRAITOR!

W-WAIT! THIS IS...

...

SASA-HARA.

...SO, WERE YOU REJECT-ED?

N-NO,

THIS IS FROM ...

...I LI-

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?!

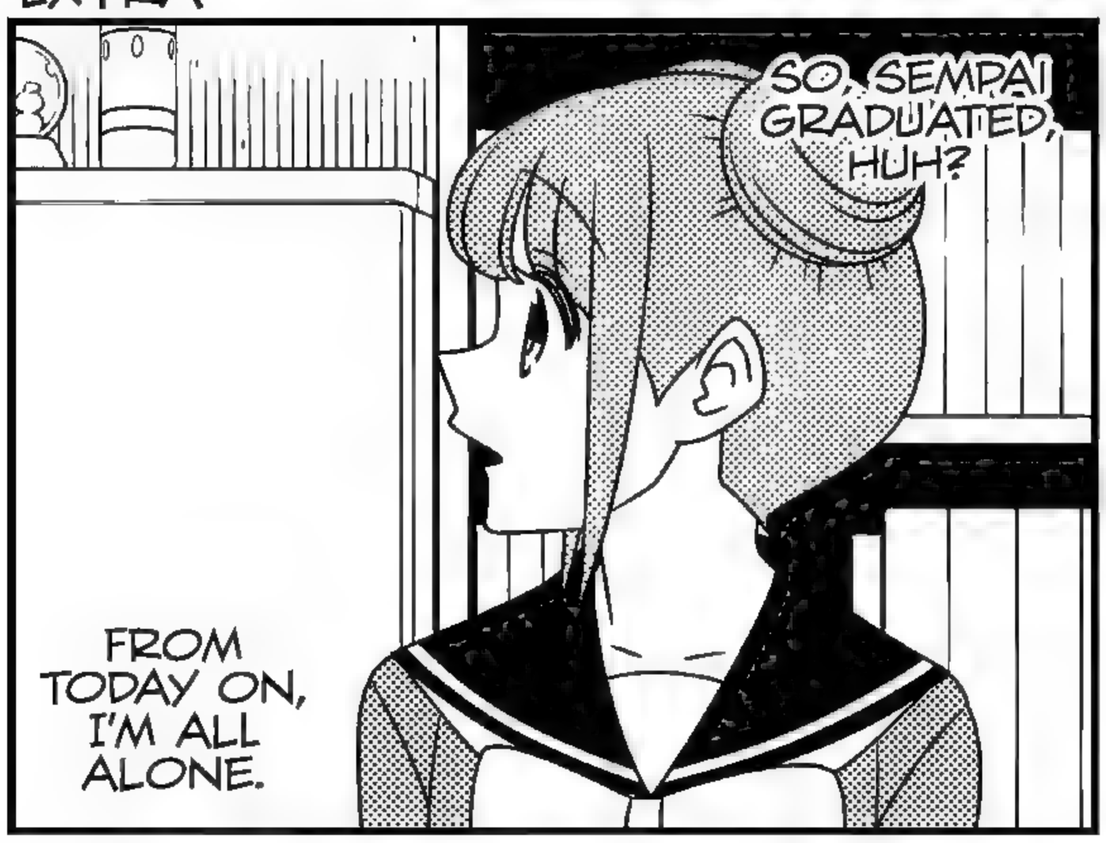
CLENCH

DON'T WORRY,

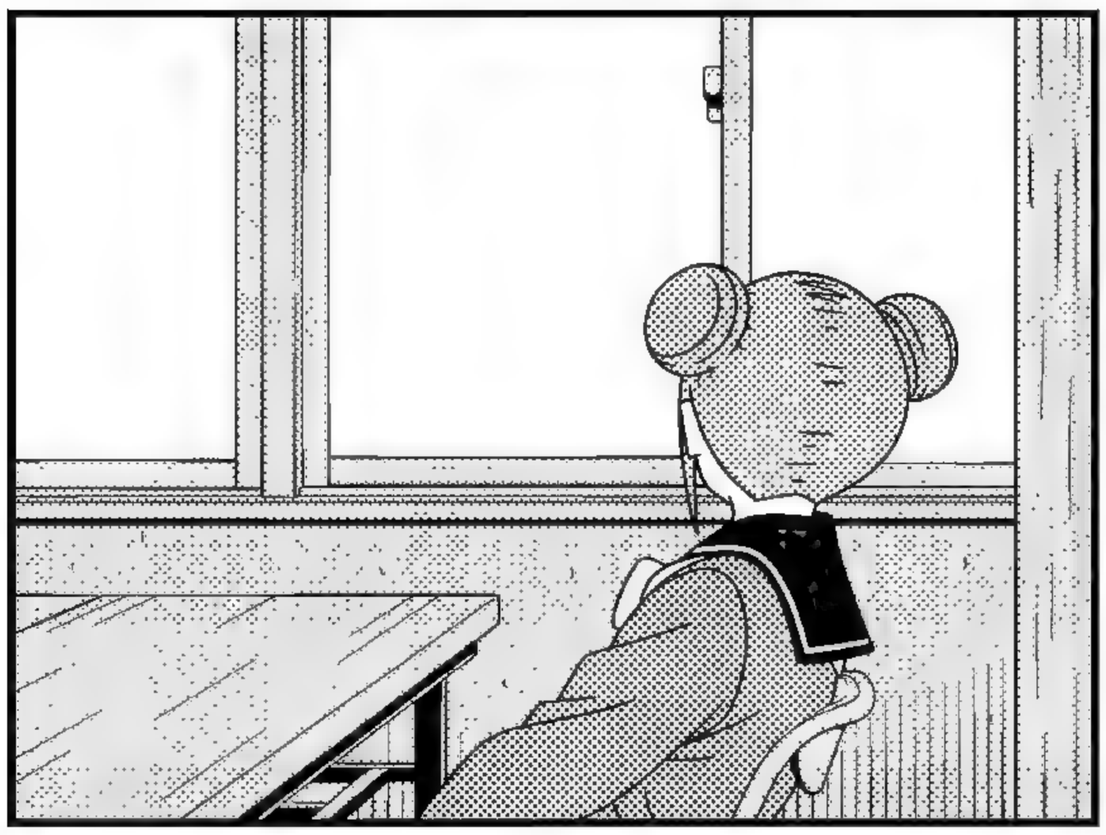
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND SOMEONE NICE, SUGAWARA-KUN.

TH-THANKS ...

EXTRA

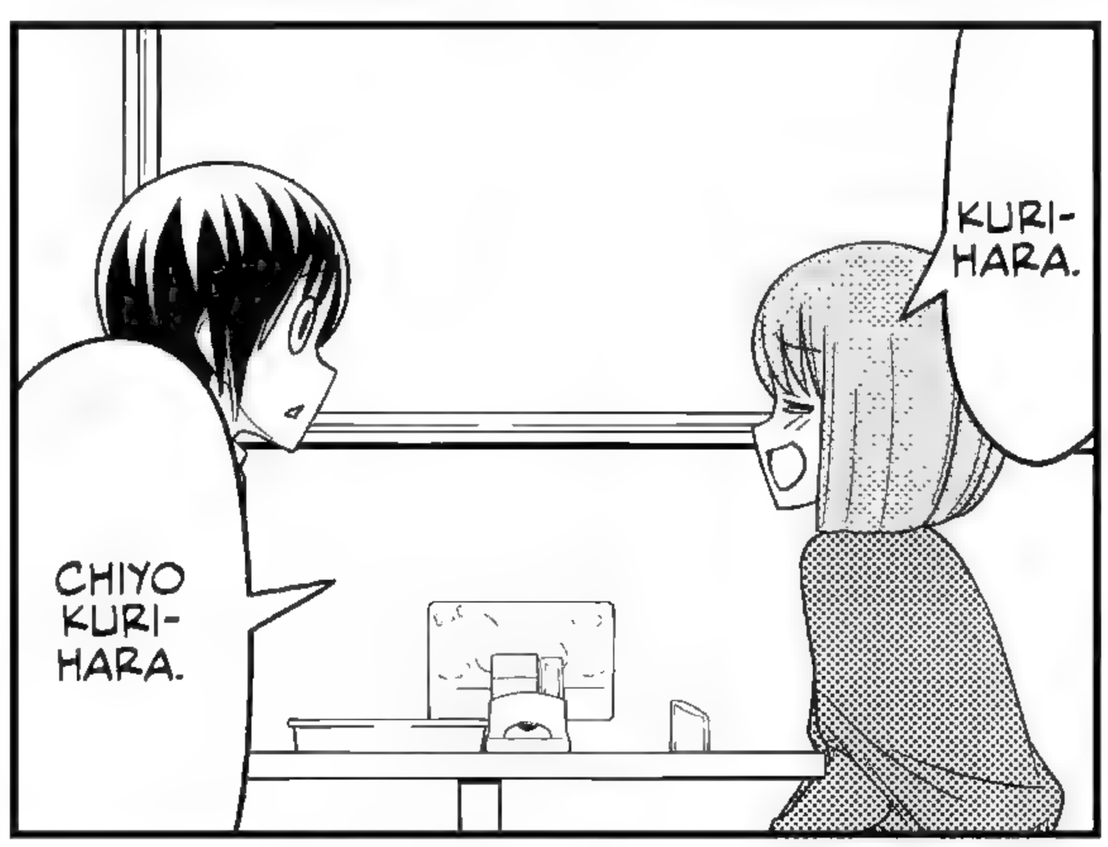

SO, SEMPAI GRADUATED, HUH?
FROM TODAY ON, I'M ALL ALONE.

SWEAT
SWEAT
SWEAT
SWEAT
SWEAT
S-SORRY TO INTER-RUPT YOU.
I JUST GOT SO THIRSTY ALL OF A SUDDEN...
AND I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP SWEAT-ING.

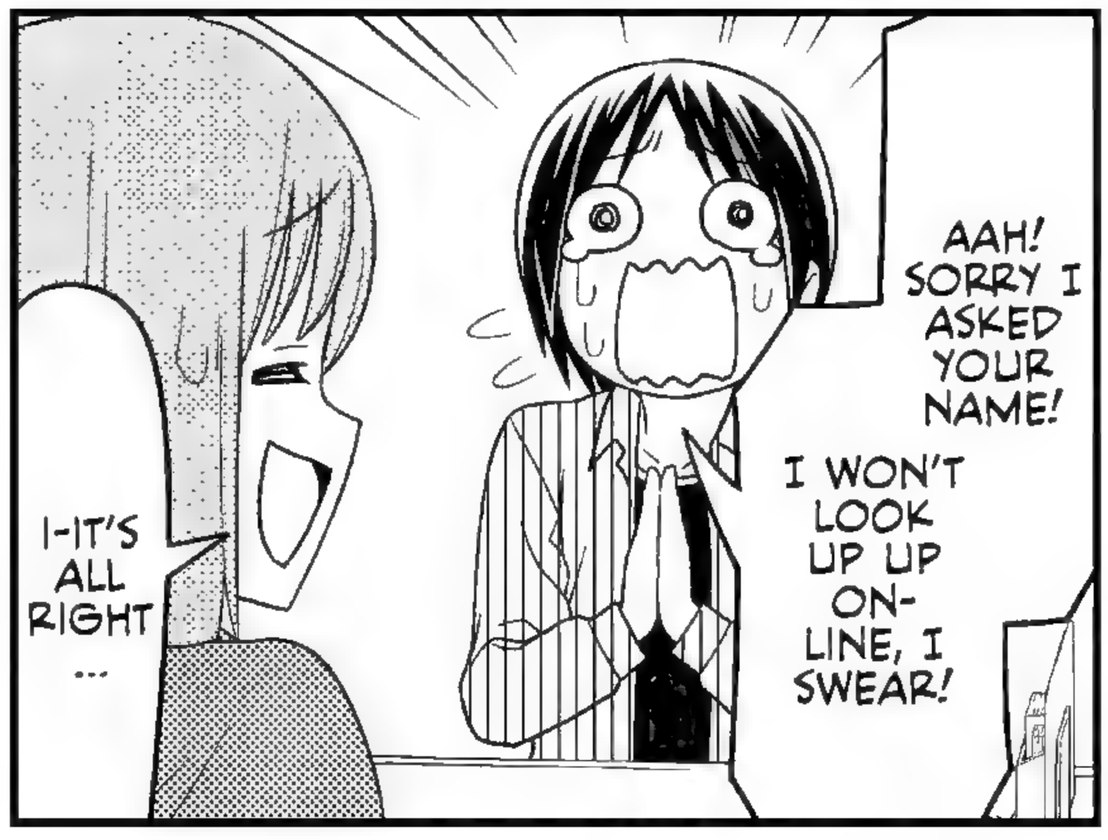


I-I'M ALL EARS NOW!
UMM...

WHIF
WHIF
ALL RIGHT!
TIME TO PUMP MYSELF UP, YO!
I'M GONNA RECRUIT LOADS OF MEMBERS THIS YEAR!


KURI-HARA.
CHIYO KURI-HARA.

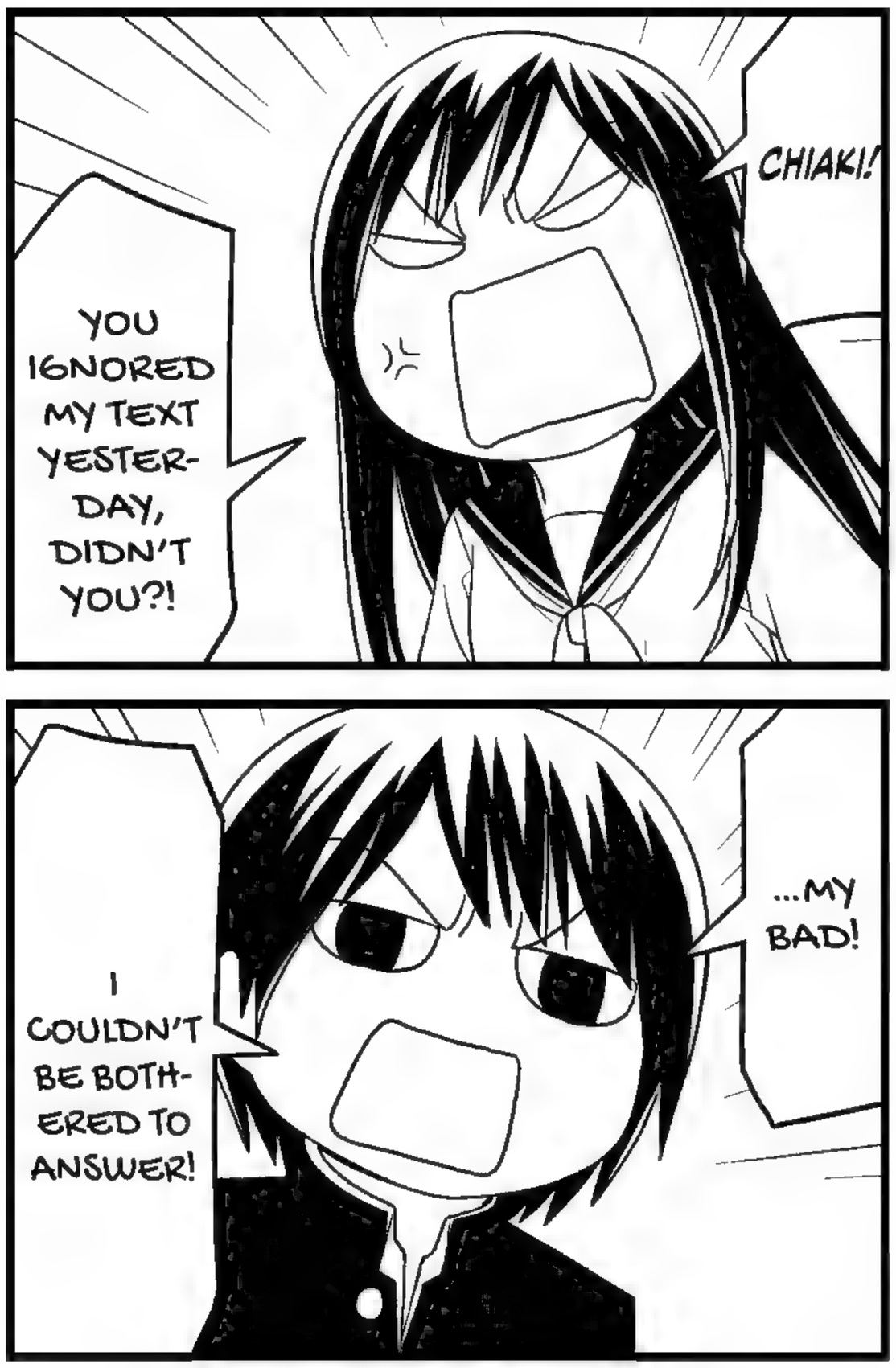
ONE-
ONE-TWO! ONE-TWO!
THUD
URG?!


AAH! SORRY I ASKED YOUR NAME!
I WON'T LOOK UP UP ON-LINE, I SWEAR!
I-IT'S ALL RIGHT ...

TSURE × DURE

CHILDREN

Point-Blank Romance


CHIAKI!
YOU IGNORED MY TEXT YESTER-DAY, DIDN'T YOU?!
...MY BAD!
I COULDN'T BE BOTH-ERED TO ANSWER!
WHACK
DOFAH!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
I MEAN, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO WHAT'RE YOU DOING?" EVERY SINGLE DAY?
CHIAKI AND I HAVE BEEN GOING OUT FOR ALMOST A YEAR NOW...
...BUT WE'VE YET TO SO MUCH AS KISS.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, UNTIL NOW...

...WE'VE ACTED MORE LIKE SIBLINGS THAN A COUPLE.

WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

WHAT?!

YOU HAVEN'T KISSED YET, KANA?!

I...I MEAN, IT'S ONLY BEEN A YEAR!

WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME!

HEY, CHIAKI.

WE HAVE A GOOD RELA-TIONSHIP, RIGHT?

TALK ABOUT SLOW.

HASN'T CHIA-KI-KUN MADE A MOVE ON YOU?

NOT REALLY, HE...

BANG!

GUH!

YA GOT ME!

PHEW ...

I JUST TOOK A HUGE DUMP.

YEAH ...

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN.

WE'RE IN PERFECT PITCH.

WHAT?! EVERY-ONE POOPS!

YOU LITTLE SHIT!

NOT WHAT I MEAN!

LIKE BETWEEN LOVERS!

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO, THEN?

YA DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT ME.

HUH?

AREN'T YOU?

ARE YOU FINE WITH HOW THINGS ARE?

OUR RELA-TIONSHIP, I MEAN.

HOW CRUEL!

YOU WERE JUST TOY-ING WITH ME ALL ALONG?!

ABLOO-BLOO...

NO, I'M NOT LOOKING TO DO A SKIT.

I MEAN FOR REAL. LIKE KISSING AND STUFF...

AAH...

MORE PHYSICAL INTIMACY OR SOME-THING, Y'KNOW?

I AM, BUT...

I WAS THINK-ING WE COULD BE EVEN CLOSER.

ISN'T THAT A LITTLE TOO EMBAR-RASS-ING?

WE'RE NOT EVEN DATING.

I-I'M EMBAR-RASSED, TOO, BUT...

HAKKYOOI!*

*PHRASE CALLED BY A SUMO REFEREE WHEN BOTH WRESTLERS STOP MOVING.

...

HUH?

SLAA

AAP

DOFAH!

LAST SPRING, WHEN I CON-FESSED TO YOU!

HOLD UP!

SINCE WHEN HAVE WE BEEN DATING?!

ISN'T THERE ANYONE YOU LIKE?

YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE HANG-ING OUT WITH ME, ANYWAY?

PFF.

I LIKE YOU WAY MORE, DUMMY!

WE WERE WALK-ING HOME...

CHIAKI-KUN, I, UM,

LIKE YOU...

HUH? WHO?

ER... AREN'T WE DATING?

I THOUGHT WE WERE DOING ANOTHER SKIT.

...MY BAD.

US.

!

DRIP

DRIP

SWIF

WHA?!

CLENCH

I MEAN, ALL THIS TIME, I'VE BEEN THE ONLY ONE THINK-ING I WAS YOUR GIRL-FRIEND...

BUH BUH

HUH? WHY ARE YOU BAWLING?

YOU NEVER TRIED TO EVEN HOLD MY HAND!

I THOUGHT SOME-THING WAS WEIRD!

I FEEL AWFUL!

HIC HIC

I TEXTED YOU END-LESSLY...

AND I KNOCKED YOU AROUND LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.

...SO I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST EMBAR-RASSED.

DRIP DRIP DRIP

AND YOU ALWAYS ACTED LIKE JUST A FRIEND...

THEN LET'S START DATING FOR REAL.

...BE-CAUSE YOU WERE STILL BY MY SIDE.

DRIP DRIP DRIP

BUT I WAS FINE WITH THAT...

...HUH?

MY FEELINGS NEVER ACTUALLY REACHED YOU, DID THEY?!

POUR POUR POUR

BUT THAT'S ALL!

WE WERE JUST CLOSE!

REALLY.

...REALLY?

NO!

WHAT, AN-OTHER SKIT?

CAN I STILL HIT YOU?

I'M GONNA SEND YOU LOADS OF TEXTS.

UNTIL I'M BLACK AND BLUE.

SEND AWAY.

...BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW YOU REALLY FELT,

THERE WAS A POINT WHERE I WANTED TO BE YOUR BOY-FRIEND, TOO...

SO I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT.

SNIFF SNIFF

...DO A SKIT WITH ME AGAIN.

SO PLEASE ...

LET'S GO OUT FOR REAL.

I LIKE YOU,

KANA.

SLAP

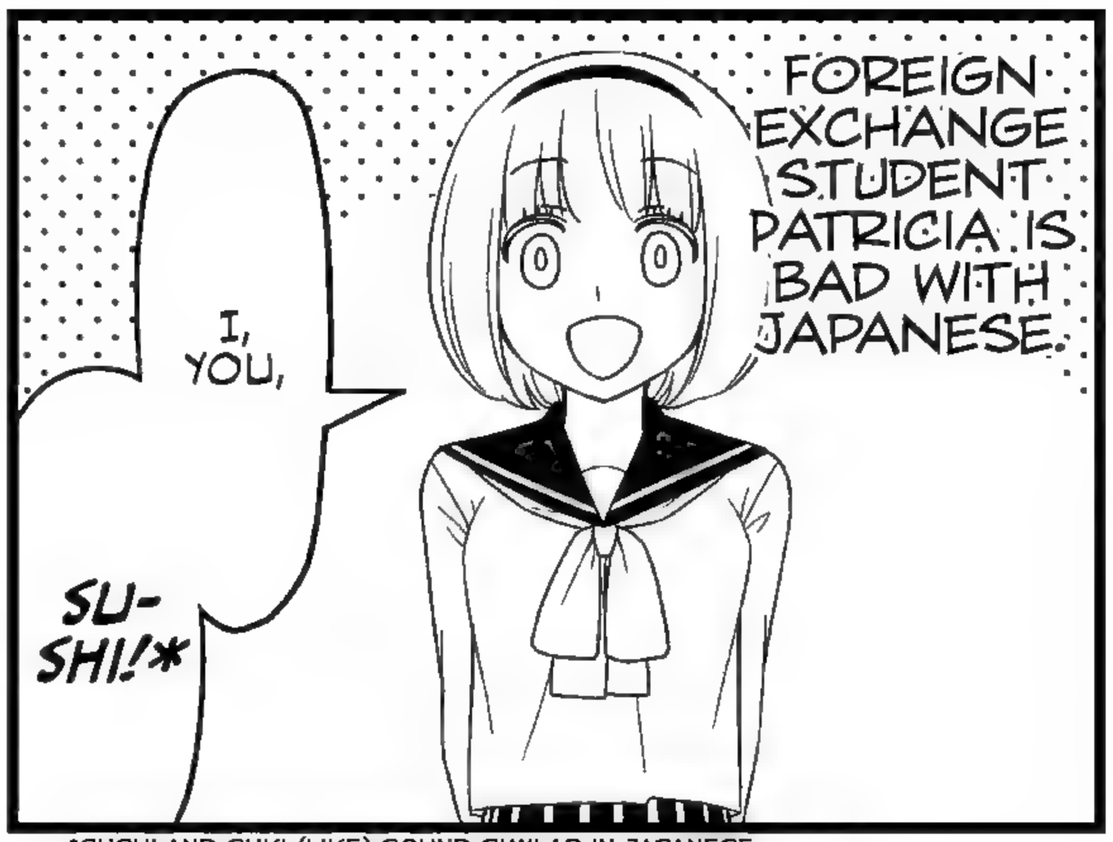
DOFAH!

THE HELL IS THAT?!

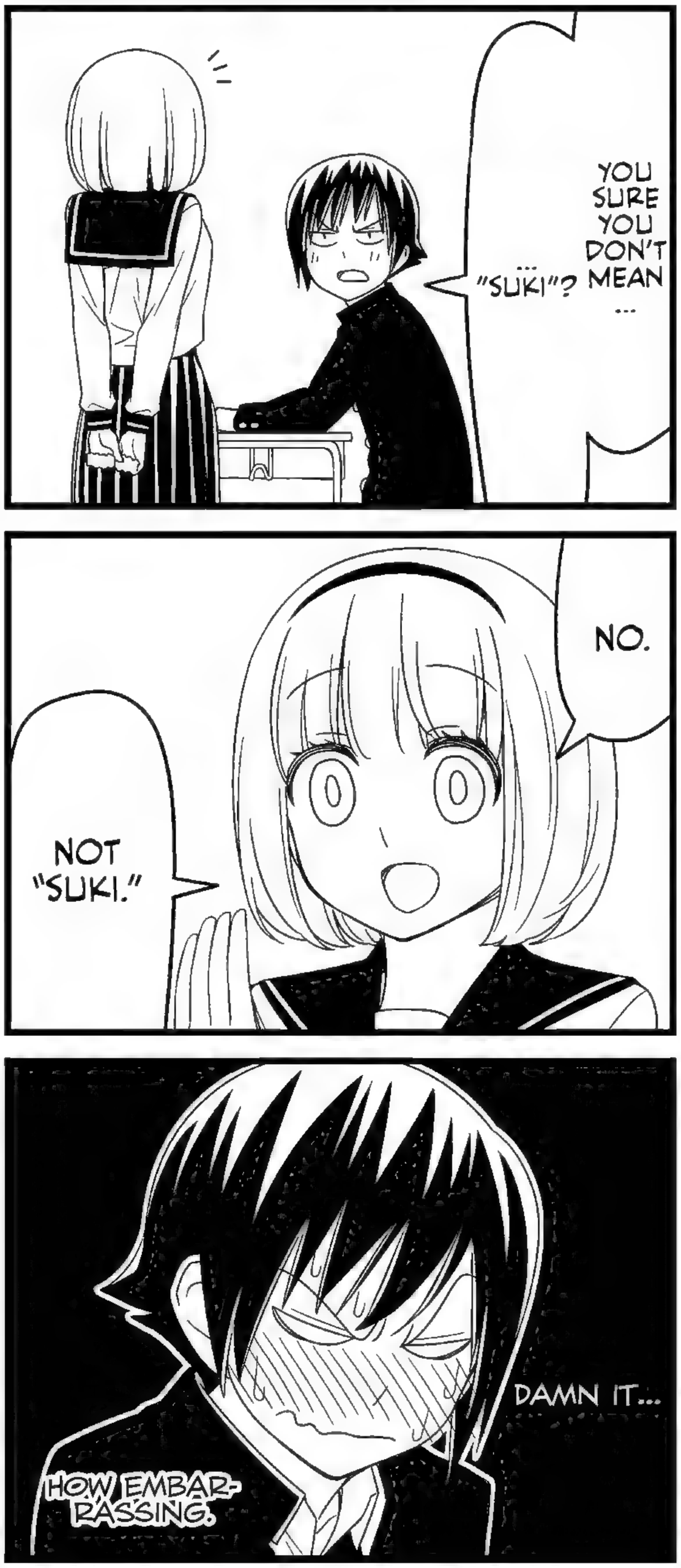
END

!

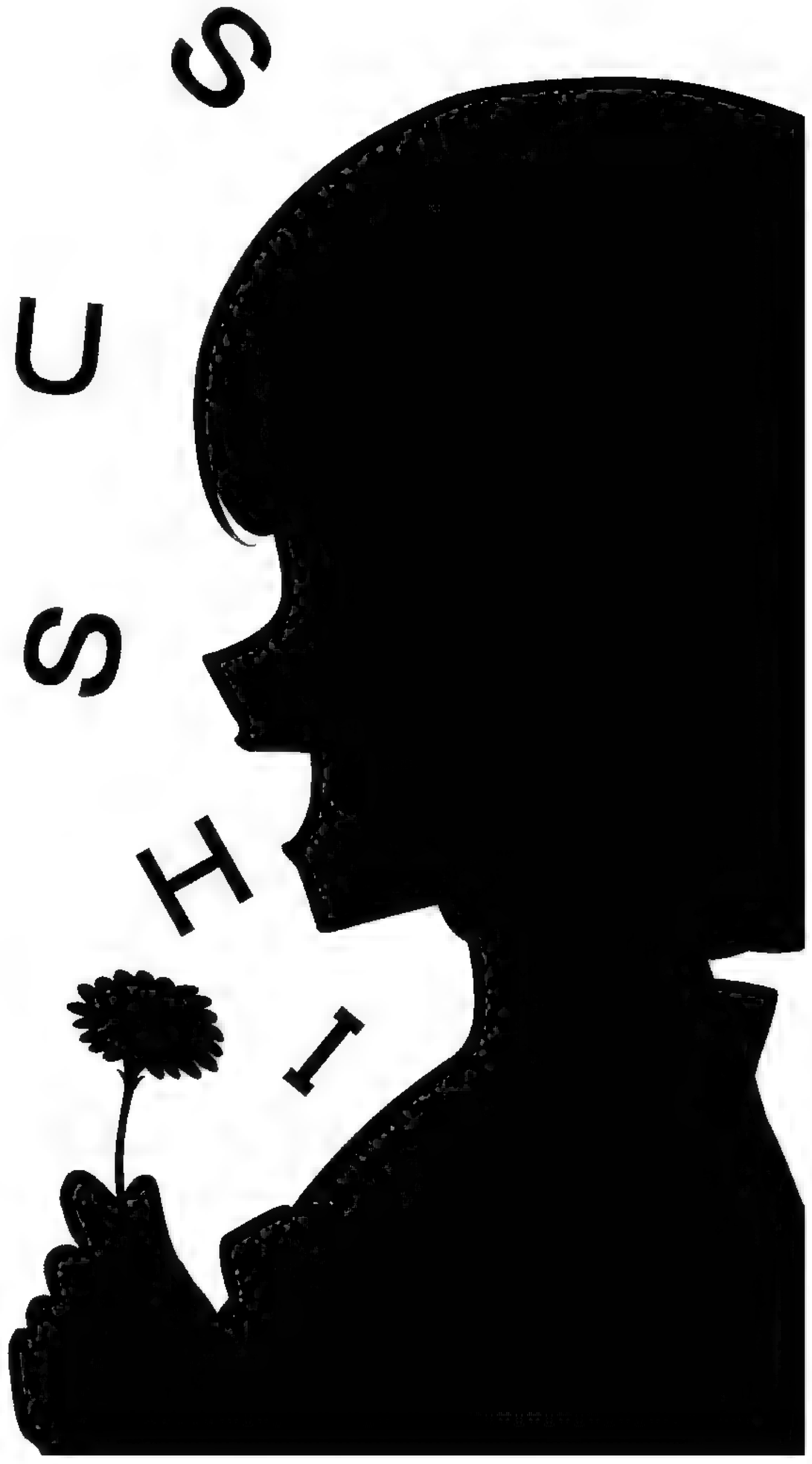
WAAH



*SUSHI AND SUKI (LIKE) SOUND SIMILAR IN JAPANESE.



Patricia



KEISUKE, VERY NICE.

YOU SHOW ME NOTES.

BE-CAUSE YOU ALWAYS SLEEP IN CLASS...

THAT IS JET-LAG.

ISN'T SUSHI FOOD?

SUSHI IS TASTY!

TRUTH IT, KEISUKE SUSHI, TOO, RIGHT?

...

NO?

THEN YOU DON'T MEAN SUSHI, RIGHT?

SUSHI!

...

FOR REAL?

FWIP

I'LL ASK ONE MORE TIME.

SURE YOU DON'T MEAN-

SUSHI!

...

FOR REAL.

SMILE

YEAH... I JUST DON'T GET HER.

JUST A PERVERT...

AND SO...

SHE'S BEEN POUTING EVER SINCE?

WHA?!

D-DOES IT, REAL-LY?!

THEN WHY YOUR FACE TURN RED...

WHEN-EVER YOU LOOK ME?

BUT SHE DENIED THAT HERSELF.

THAT "SUSHI" ...

DEFINITELY MEANS "SUKI," NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.

N-NO!

YOU'RE ALWAYS SPADING ME.

BE-CAUSE YOU'RE PER-VERT?!

!

URK

BUT SHE SAID, "NOT SUKI!"

WHAT-EVER, JUST APOLO-GIZE TO HER!

YOU LIKE HER, TOO, DON'T YOU?

HUH?!

BUT YOU KNOW PERVERT...

SPADE?

UHH...LIKE FAWNING.

WHAT MEAN?

"NOT SUKI!"

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

NO, DAMN IT!

IS PER-VERTED WORD?!

TWITCH

WHAT MEAN, "MIGHT"?

HWAH ?!

...

SO-

SORRY ABOUT EARLIER, PATRICIA.

N-NO, I...

YOU SAY THAT...

BUT AREN'T YOU JUST PERVERT?!

...YOU, TOO.

I...

MIGHT SUSHI...

SAY IT CLEAR-LY!

IF SUSHI, SUSHI!

IF NOT SUSHI, NOT SUSHI!

SUSHI!

WHAAAA?!

SU-

ISN'T THIS HOW I SHOULD USE IT?!

TWITCH

HUH?! DID I SCREW UP?

WHAT THE HELL IS "SUSHI"? IF SHE DOESN'T MEAN "SUKI," THEN WHAT?

DOES SHE NOT MEAN "LIKE"? DOES SHE NOT LIKE ME?

THEN WHY BE-FORE ...

DID YOU SAY "NOT SUSHI"?

OH...I JUST DIDN'T UNDER-STAND YOU.

I KNEW IT, YOU NOT SUSHI.

TWITCH

TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE!

BUT YOU DO NOW?

Y-YOU BET!

L-LOOK!

PRESS

PRESS

SUSHI!

THEN ...

...SHOW SUSHI THROUGH ACTION!

S-SORRY, PATRICIA.

I DON'T GET WHAT SUSHI MEANS.

IT'S OKAY.

HANG ON!

...THAT WAS JUST A JOKE!

IT'S FINE.

I GUESS ONLY I WAS SUSHI...

YOUR FEELINGS OF SUSHI...

REACHED ME.

HUH?! WITH THAT?!

THEN WHAT DOES SUSHI...

S-SUSHI!

ME, TOO.

I, KEISUKE...

...SUSHI.

CRAP. STONEWALLED.

I GUESS SHE DIDN'T MEAN "LIKE," AFTER ALL.

FWIP

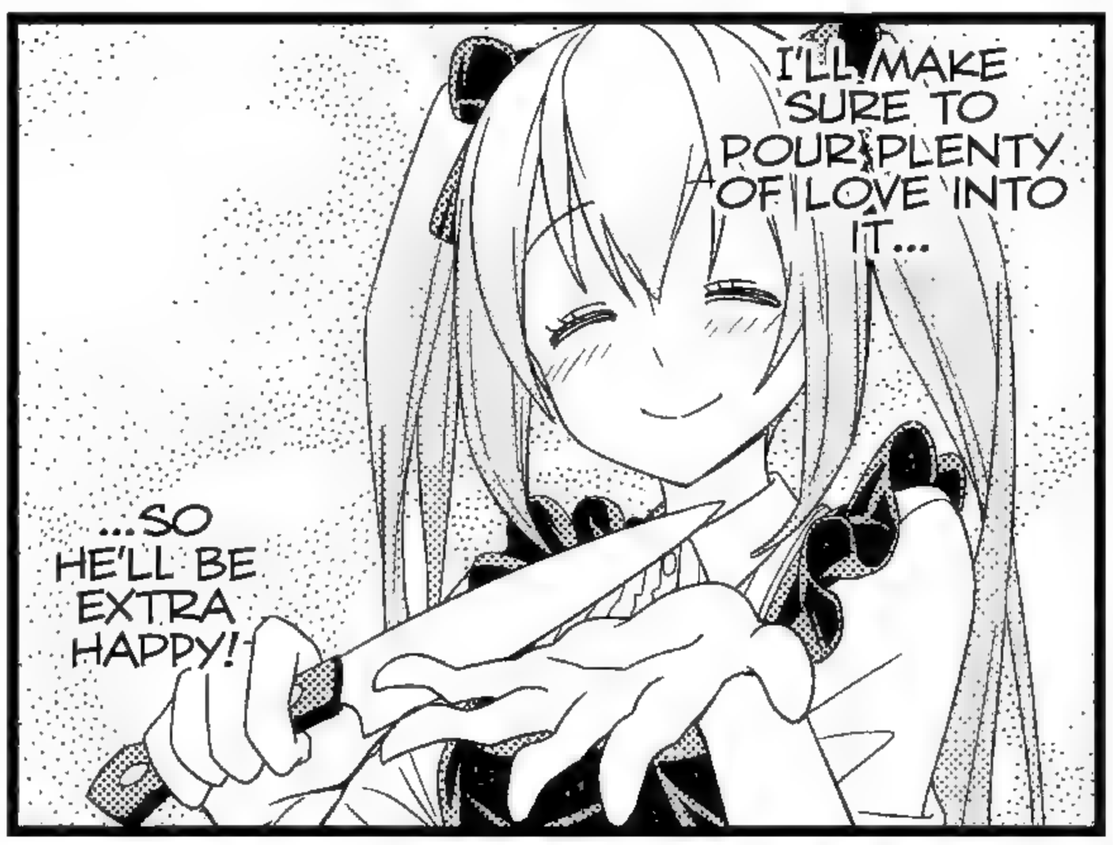
WHAT IS SUSHI?!

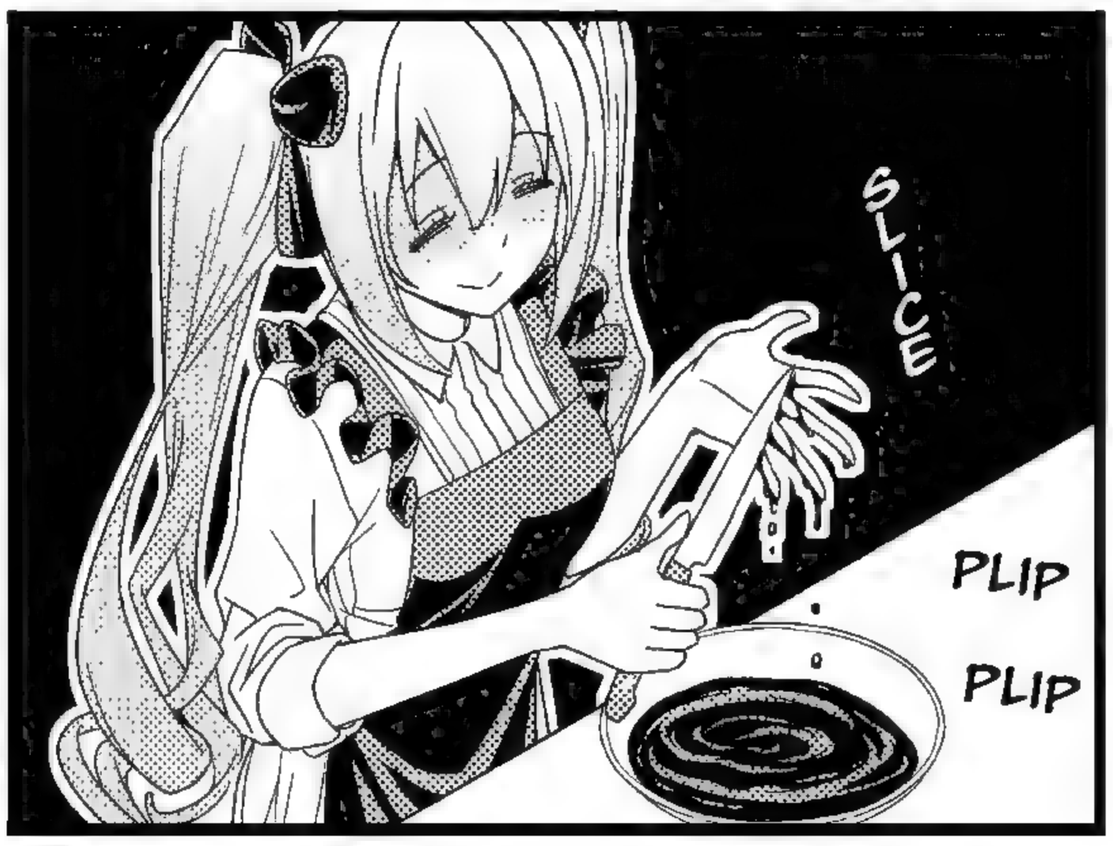
WHAT, I ASK?!

END

UGHHH

My Bloody Valentine





THAT'S SAKI KANDA FROM CLASS ONE. SHE SAYS IT'S FRIEND-SHIP, BUT...

...COULD IT BE SHE LIKES TAKASE-KUN, TOO?

I WONDER IF HE'LL ACCEPT MY FEELINGS!

AAH! I'M SO NER-VOUS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH A CUTE GIRL IS MY RIVAL.

THE GOD OF LOVE IS CRUEL!

IF IT'S COME TO THIS...

TA-TAKASE!

HUH? CHOC-OLATE?

TH-THIS IS FOR YOU!

...I MIGHT AS WELL DIE!

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!

S-SURE... THANKS.

IT'S JUST OBLIG-ATORY CHOC-OLATE, OKAY?!

BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANT TO DIE IN FRONT OF TAKASE-KUN.

I WANT TO SHOWER HIM WITH MY AFFECTION!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED, RIGHT?

THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO FALL OUT OF HIS POCKET.

I'M SURE THEY WOULD HAVE.

I ENDED UP TAKING KANDA-SAN'S CHOCO-LATES.

TWITCH

TA-TAKASE-KUN!

WHOA!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HIMEMIYA?!

YOU STARTLED ME.

LOVE

Takase,

I've tried to tell you a number of times until now, but I've never been able to be honest, so I'll write it in this letter.

I like you, Takase.

The truth is, these chocolates represent my true feelings. It was the first time I've made chocolate, you know!

Sorry if it tastes bad.

Saki

BA-DUM

!!!

HUH?!

YOU SHOULDN'T WALK AROUND WITH A KNIFE.

THAT'S DANGER-OUS.

YOU'RE ADORABLE, KANDA-SAN!

I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL!

I BET WE COULD BE GOOD FRIENDS!

HE'S ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT ME...?

OH, GOD. IF HE'S THAT NICE TO ME...

...I WON'T...

I CAN'T LET HER GIVE THESE TO TAKASE-KUN.

CRACK

CRACK

CRACK

FSHHHH

BUT THEY'RE HAND-MADE, AFTER ALL.

WHO KNOWS WHAT COULD BE IN THEM.

SWIPE

SEE YA.

...BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK MY FEELINGS!

BUT MAKE SURE YOU TELL KANDA-SAN...

THAT THEY WERE TASTY, OKAY?

HUH? WHY?

GLANCE

GLANCE

OH, CRAP.

I LOST KANDA'S CHOCO-LATES.

DID I DROP THEM?

IF SHE FINDS OUT THAT SHE FOR-GOT TO PUT THEM IN THE BOX,

SHE'LL JUST DIE FROM EMBAR-RASSMENT.

BUT WHAT IF SHE ASKS ME FOR SPECIF-ICS?

TAKASE-KUN!

YOU DROPPED THIS.

AH!

IT'S JUST FRIEND-SHIP CHOC-OLATE, RIGHT?

DON'T WORRY!

WELL...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

THANKS, HIME-MIYA!

YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER!

OH, BOY!

I WONDER WHO SHE'LL GIVE HER REAL CHOCO-LATES TO!

TEE-HEE!

HUH?

WHAT ?!

IT'S EMPTY ...

MAYBE KANDA-SAN FOR-GOT TO PUT THE CHOC-OLATE INSIDE.

HOW CUTE!

HUH? YOU SURE?

IN THAT CASE ...

MAYBE I'LL GIVE CHOCO-LATE TO YOU, TAKASE-KUN.

N-NO.

I COULDN'T FIND THE COUR-AGE.

DID YOU GIVE CHOCO-LATE TO ANYONE, HIME-MIYA?

DON'T SWEAT IT. I'M SUPER HAPPY!

THEY'RE HOME-MADE,

SO THEY MIGHT NOT TASTE VERY GOOD.

BA-DUM

!

WELL, YOU'RE A NICE PERSON.

I BET WHOEVER RECEIVED THEM WOULD BE HAPPY.

HUH? A LET-TER?

I GAVE THEM TO HIM! MY FEELINGS!

THEY'RE FINALLY GOING TO REACH TAKASE-KUN!

UH, I WASN'T TRYING TO...

O-OH, PLEASE, TAKASE-KUN!

DON'T TEASE ME!

MAR-RIAGE REGIS-TRATION FORM

I...I MEAN IT! RE-ALLY!

I'LL BE HURT IF YOU DON'T MEAN IT!

REALLY HURT, OKAY?!

HERE, TAKE THEM BACK!

THE CHOC-OLATE LOOKED REALLY GOOD, THOUGH!

UM... THOSE ARE...

HM? WHAT?

HIME-MIYA? WHAT'S THIS...?

SILLY ME! I GAVE YOU THE WRONG ONES!

Y-YEAH!

Surprised? you all al e even dre as a very ha d hasn't c you think true? W with you

HURRY UP AND TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK, OKAY?

BUT I CAN'T CRY NOW! I HAVE TO KEEP A SMILE ON MY FACE...

I'M SUCH A COWARD! I CAN'T EVEN TELL HIM THEY'RE MEANT FOR HIM!

DID YOU MISTAKE THEM FOR FRIENDSHIP CHOCO-LATES?

I THINK...

THESE ARE LEGIT!

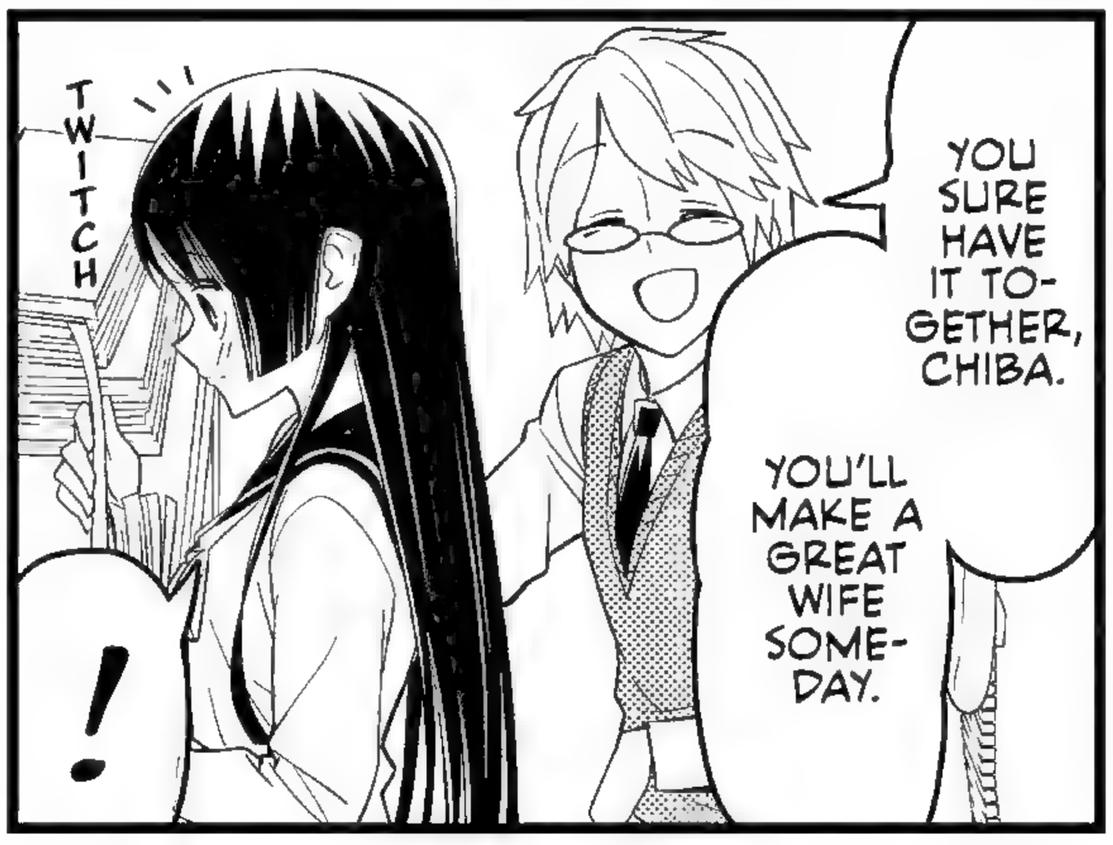
END

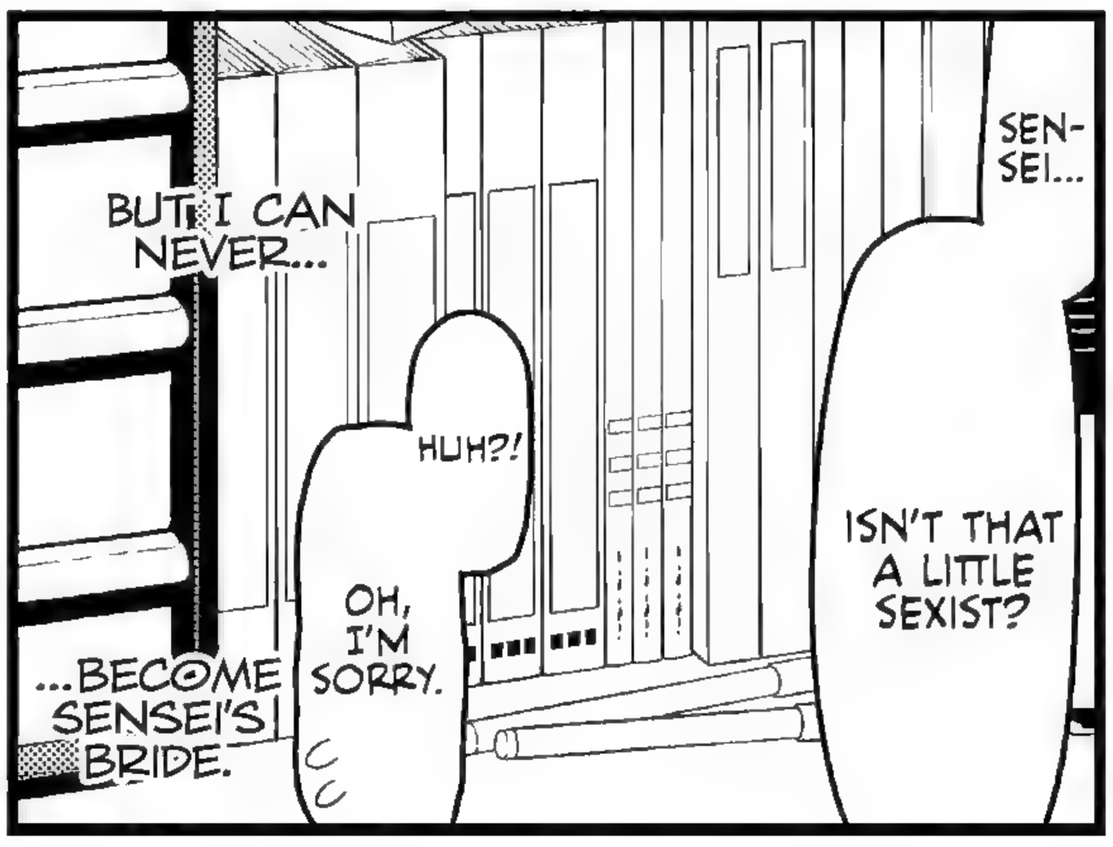
HERE. FRIEND-SHIP CHOCO-LATE.

THANKS!

...AND GIVE TAKASE-KUN THE BACKUP CHOCOLATE!

I'm Getting Rejected Tonight





NEVER-MIND. IT'S ALL RIGHT.

HUH?!

SEN-SEI,

CAN I ASK YOU FOR ADVICE?

HM? ABOUT WHAT? YOUR CAREER PATH?

I KNOW.

A STUDENT FALLING FOR A TEACHER NEVER...

HEY, CHIBA.

HE REALLY HASN'T CONNECTED THE DOTS.

I'D LIKE TO SPEAK IN PRIVATE, IF POSSIBLE.

YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK?

I'M KIND OF HAPPY!

TO THINK YOU'D RELY ON ME FOR A CHANGE!

BUT FALLING FOR HIM MORE...

...WOULD ONLY BRING ME MORE PAIN...

...SO I WANT HIM TO REJECT ME AND END MY MISERY.

...DUMMY.

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

NO.

BUT MAYBE WE SHOULD EAT BE-FORE-

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. IT WON'T TAKE LONG.

I'M NOT SURE IF SENSEI IS JUST A SLOW WORKER...

...BUT HE ALWAYS LEAVES LATE.

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE ANY MORE MEMORIES WITH HIM.

THE THING IS...

URK

NO, I WAS...

...AT THE LI-BRARY.

HUH? CHI-BA?

DID CLUB RUN LATE OR SOME-THING?

GRRRRUMMMMM

OH, SORRY!

YOU WERE SAYING?

IT'S GOOD TO BE STUDI-OUS,

BUT IT'S DAN-GER-OUS TO STAY OUT AFTER DARK.

I'LL WALK YOU TO THE STATION.

I REALLY HATE HIM.

...IT'S FINE.

LET'S EAT FIRST.

THIS IS THE LAST DAY I'LL BE ABLE TO WAIT FOR SENSEI...

...UNDER THE GUISE OF BEING A GOOD STUDENT.

AH! THERE SHE IS!

WHY ARE YOU CRY-ING?!

OH, I'M JUST SO HAPPY...

ANMAN...*

YOU KNOW,

IS THAT SO?

I'VE NEVER EATEN WITH A STUDENT LIKE THIS BEFORE.

*BREAD FILLED WITH SWEET RED BEAN PASTE.

DON'T SAY THAT ...

I'M A SLOW WORKER ...

YOU'RE A GOOD TEACHER, SENSEI.

...AND A SECOND-RATE TEACHER.

TO THINK YOU'D ASK ME FOR LIFE ADVICE.

...

I FEEL LIKE A TEACHER OUT OF A SOAP OPERA.

I FEEL A LITTLE MORE CONFIDENT, THANKS TO YOU, CHIBA.

THANK YOU.

AREN'T YOU GETTING CARRIED ...

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TROUBLE I'M HAVING.

TEARY

TEARY

EVEN THOUGH I KNOW...

NOTHING WILL COME OF IT.

UM... SENSEI ...

OH, SORRY!

WE'RE HERE TO DISCUSS YOUR TROUBLE!

I THOUGHT ABOUT KEEPING IT A SECRET,

BUT IF I'M TREATED ANY NICER, I...

THANK YOU, CHIBA.

I'M NOT REALLY THAT GOOD OF A STUDENT.

I'LL DISAPPOINT YOU, SENSEI.

THAT TOOK A LOT OF COUR-AGE TO SAY, DIDN'T IT?

THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING ME.

SEN-SEI...

WHAT, DID YOU SCREW UP OR SOME-THING?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES.

I'M IN LOVE...

AND?

WHICH SENSEI IS IT?

...WITH SENSEI!

A-AT ANY RATE, IF YOU CONFESS TO THAT TEACHER...

I'M SURE THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF THINGS.

BUT YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING, WILL YOU, SENSEI?

...

AH! I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T ASK WHO, HUH?

ER...WELL, THIS IS A PICKLE!

WHEN THE TIME COMES ...

...I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU.

I'M PRETTY BAD WITH THIS SORT OF THING.

YOU COULD WAIT UNTIL YOU GRADUATE TO TELL HIM...

OH, BUT THAT'S PROB-LEM-ATIC, TOO.

FOR-GET IT, THEN.

HE'S TOO UNRE-LIABLE AND DENSE.

SIGH

AND...

HUH?!

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, CHIBA?

ABOUT THAT SENSEI.

...I CAN'T HELP BUT LOVE HIM.

I WANT TO DECK HIM.

END

I WANT THINGS TO STAY THIS WAY FOR A LITTLE LONGER.

Love Master

PEOPLE ALWAYS ASK ME FOR LOVE ADVICE!
WHY NOT? TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL!
THANKS, KAZUKO-CHAN!
BUT TRUTH BE TOLD...
I GAVE HALF-ASSED ADVICE AGAIN...
...I'VE NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND BEFORE!
WHY ASK ME FOR ADVICE?
SIGH...
I'VE NEV-ER...
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WITH RELATION-SHIP EXPE-RIENCE.
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?!

PLEASE.

I JUST FELT LIKE CLIMBING ONE.

DID YOU JUST SAVE A CAT...

...THAT WAS STUCK IN A TREE?

PAR-DON,

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN LOOKING DOWN ON GIRLS WHILE TALKING TO THEM.

HUH? WHO ARE YOU?!

WERE YOU EAVES-DROP-PING?!

HUH?!

SO YOU WERE LISTEN-ING!

AND?

WHAT SEEMS TO BE TROU-BLING YOU?

THUD

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY? HE'S SO WEIRD!

WHY WAS HE UP THAT TREE, ANYWAY?

NO.

YOU'RE JUST MAKING...

...THE SAME TROUBLED EXPRES-SION AS THAT CAT WAS. ☆

COME ON OUT, KITTY.

MEOW!

BA-DUM

MEOW.

BA-DUM

HUH?!

OH, PLEASE.

I COULD NEVER BE CONSIDERED COOL.

L-LOVE MASTER?!

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO COOL, DON'T YOU?

HM?

S-SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?!

HOW CAN HE JUST GO COMPARING PEOPLE TO ADORABLE KITTIES?!

THAT'S JUST THE KINDA GUY I AM. ☆

FAR OUT-NUMBER THOSE I'VE MADE SMILE.

THE NUMBER OF GIRLS I'VE MADE CRY...

MAYBE I SHOULD ASK HIM FOR ADVICE.

WAIT, BUT WE'VE ONLY JUST MET!

THEN AGAIN, HE SEEMS LIKE HE HAS A LOT OF EXPERIENCE...

OOPS!

...IF I GO CALLING MYSELF A MASTER!

OOPSIE!

I MIGHT INCITE THE WRATH OF THE GOD OF LOVE...

TWITCH

COULD IT BE YOU THINK...

I'M SOME KIND OF LOVE MASTER?

HUH?!

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

HE'S SO COOL...!

BULL'S-EYE.

BINGO! ☆

THAT WON'T DO, KITTEN.

I'M EVERY-ONE'S PRINCE, AFTER ALL.

THEN, WILL YOU...

...AH! WHAT IS THIS I'M FEELING?!

COULD IT BE I...?

...THEN YOU MIGHT GET BURNED. ♡

IF YOU FALL FOR ME...

...

GO ON, LAY IT ON ME.

IF HUMBLE OL' ME WILL DO. ☆

WHIP

I DON'T CARE!

...MY PRINCE, BY ANY CHANCE?

MIGHT YOU BE...

WHISH

THAT WAS MY AFTER-IMAGE.

OUI! ☆

FU, FU, FU.

THIS KITTEN'S A HAND-FUL.

GO ON!

SAVE ME, MEOW!

SWAY

GIVE IT UP, KITTEN.

NO ONE CAN TIE ME DOWN.

TWITCH

SLIP

AHH!

!

!

IN THAT CASE ...!

WHUD

PLEASE SAVE ME...

LIKE YOU DID THAT KITTY!

BLERGH

MEOOOOW!

TWITCH

FARE-WELL, KITTEN.

STAY SAFE NOW, YOU HEAR?

FEAR NOT.

THIS IS MERELY THE PASTA I ATE FOR LUNCH.

Y-YOU'RE BLEED-ING!

WAIT!

AT LEAST TELL ME YOUR NAME!

STUPID? WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

I'M SOR-RY.

YOU GOT HURT BECAUSE I WAS BEING STUPID...

CIAO!

SHINICHI KATORI.

...IS A PRINCE'S DUTY!

SAVING KITTENS IN NEED...

END

KATORI-SEM-PAAAI!

I'M IN LOVE!

TSUREXDURE

CHILDREN

HEY, PATRI-CIA.

HOW DO YOU SAY SUSHI IN ENGLISH?

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT.

URK

!

BY THE WAY,

WEREN'T YOU SAYING SOME-THING ABOUT KISSING?

OH, DO YOU MEAN...

L-O-V-...

IT WORD JAPANESE OFTEN USE.

GWAH!

BAANG!

...HUH?

NO, REALLY.

HOLD THE BANG-BANG FOR A SEC...

TAP

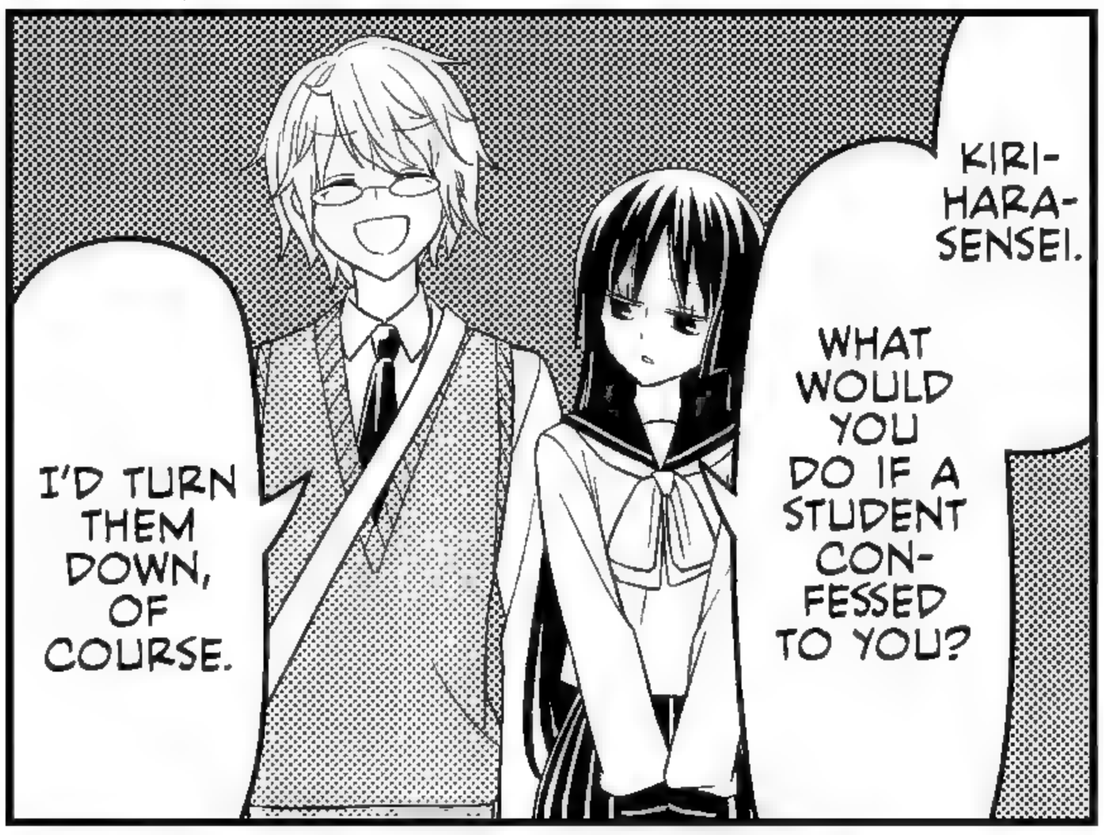
TAP

...HUH?!

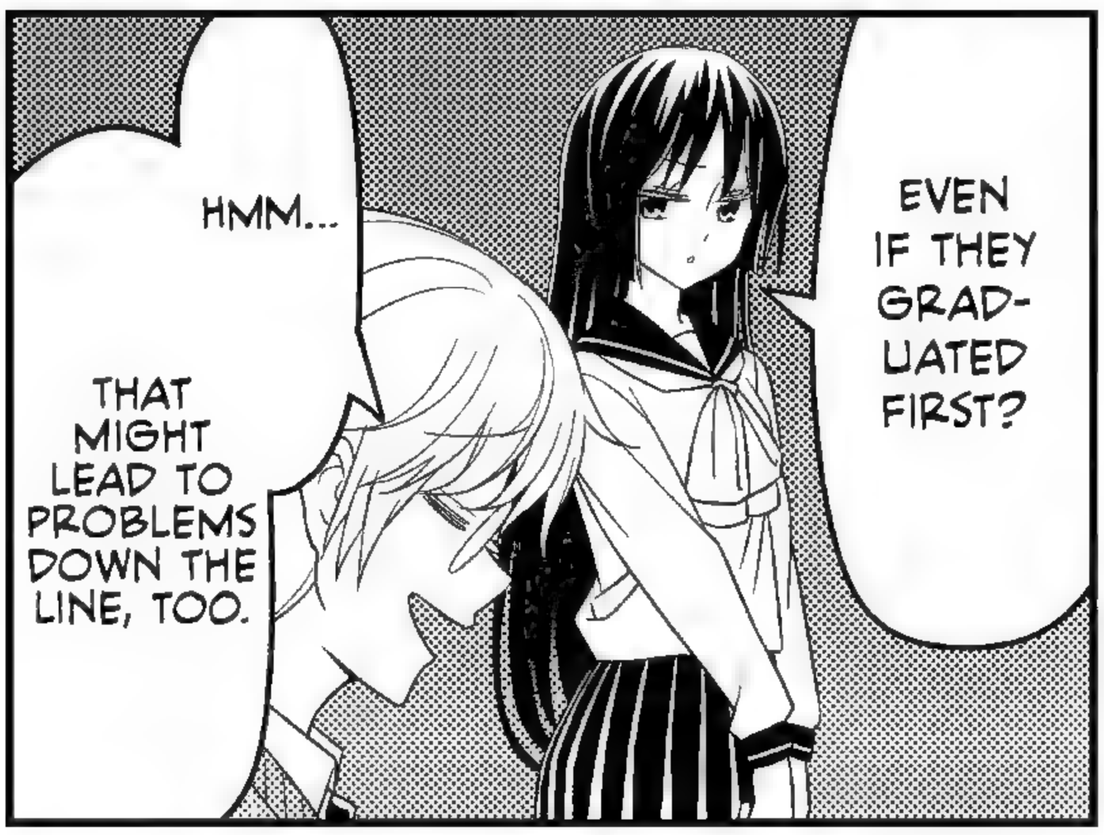
GRAHH!

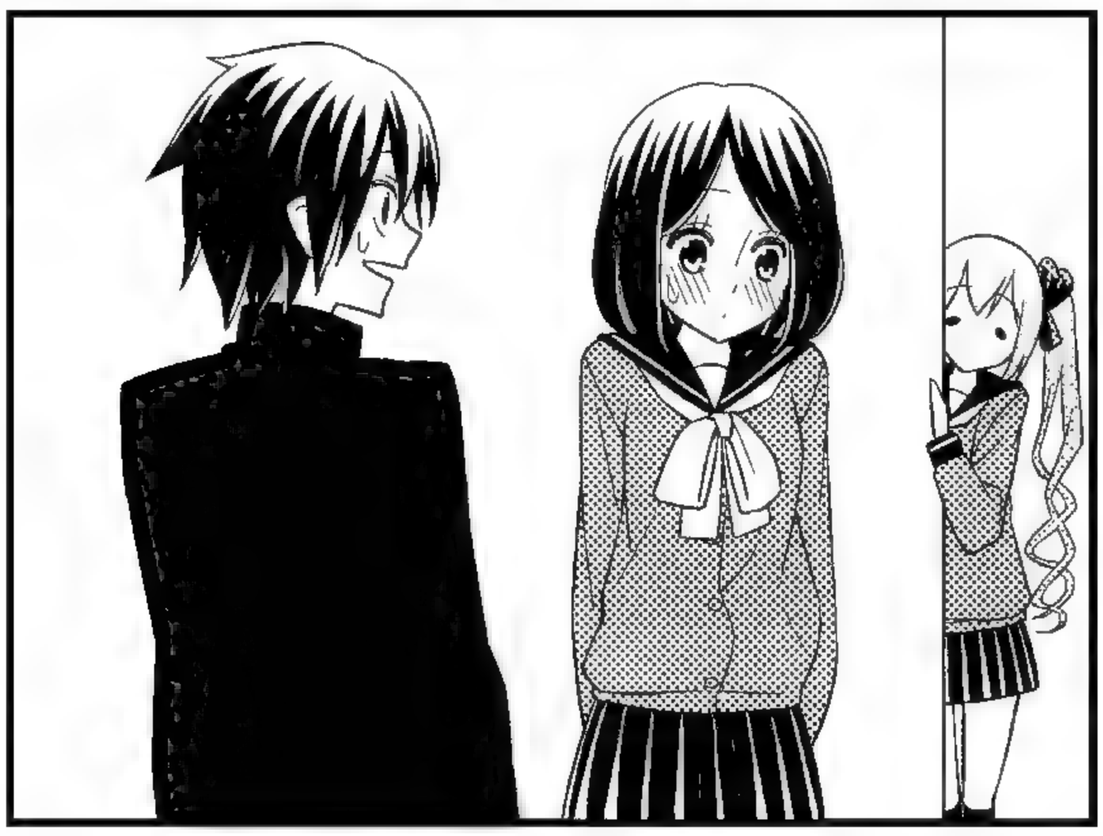
BAANG!

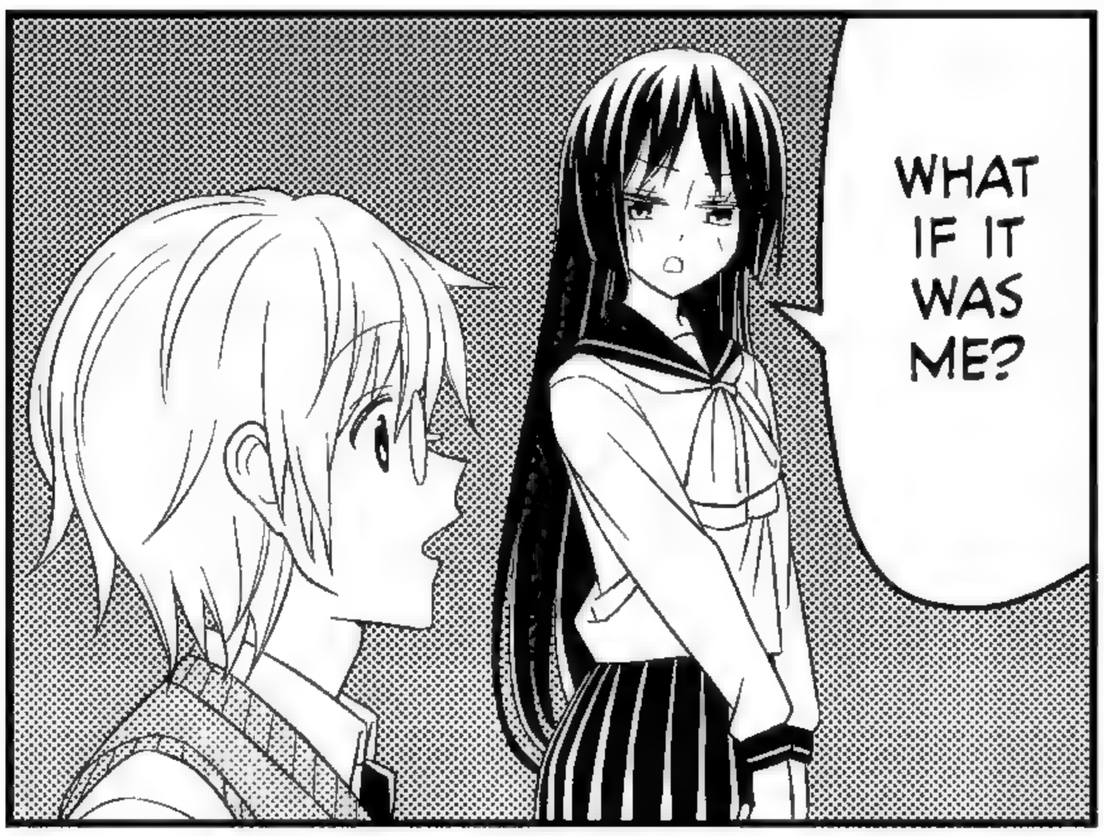
EXTRA

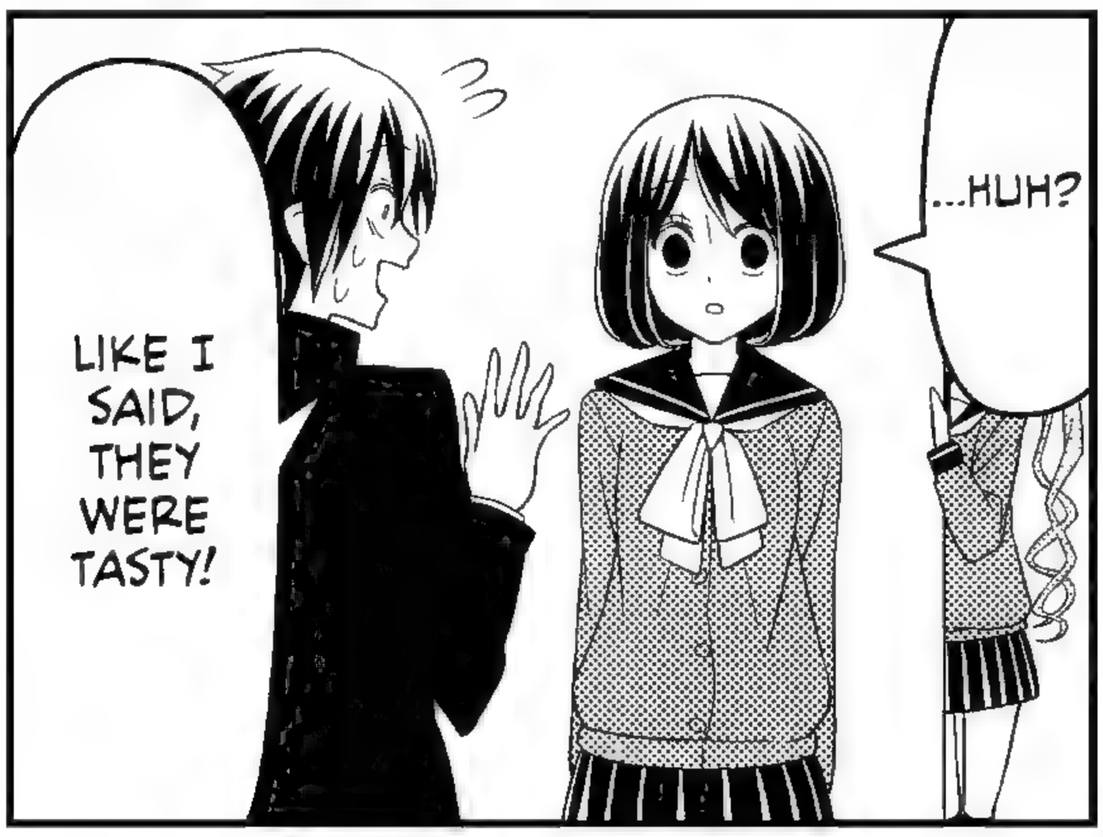

KIRI-
HARA-
SENSEI.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF A STUDENT CON-
FESSED TO YOU?
I'D TURN THEM DOWN, OF COURSE.

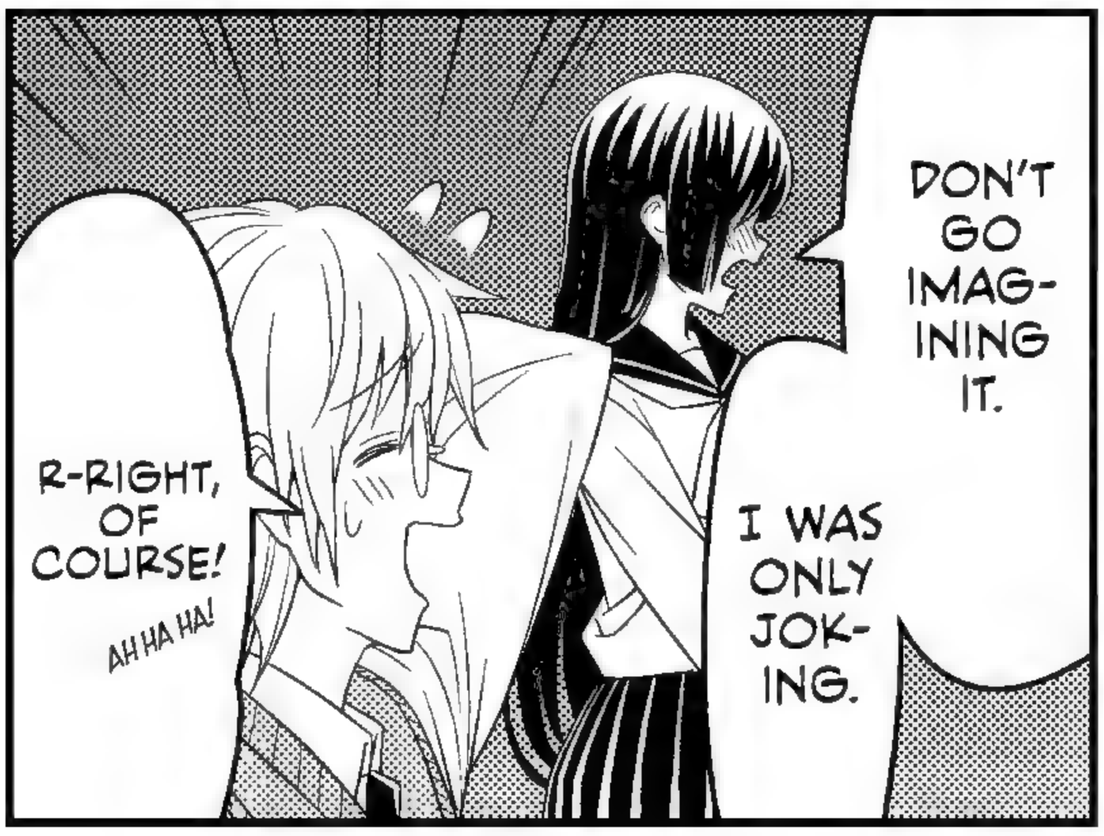
TA-
TAKASE!
ABOUT THE CHOC-
OLATES I GAVE YOU YES-
TERDAY...
HUH?
OH...
THEY WERE GOOD!


EVEN IF THEY GRAD-
UATED FIRST?
HMM...
THAT MIGHT LEAD TO PROBLEMS DOWN THE LINE, TOO.




WHAT IF IT WAS ME?


...HUH?
LIKE I SAID, THEY WERE TASTY!


DON'T GO IMAG-
INING IT.
I WAS ONLY JOK-
ING.
R-RIGHT, OF COURSE!
AH HA HA!

PROBABLY BOMBASTIC, SINCE SHE'S A FOREIGN-ER, RIGHT?

HOW DO YOU THINK PATRICIA'D REACT IF WE SHOT AT HER?

LIKE-WISE, AYAKA.

I GOT RE-JECTED AFTER THAT, TOO.

KAZUKO-CHAN...

I GOT REJECTED.

!!!

HEY, YOU!

BANG! BANG!

YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW HIM. HE'S IN A HIGHER GRADE.

I MIGHT.

JUST TELL ME.

HUH?!

BY WHO?!

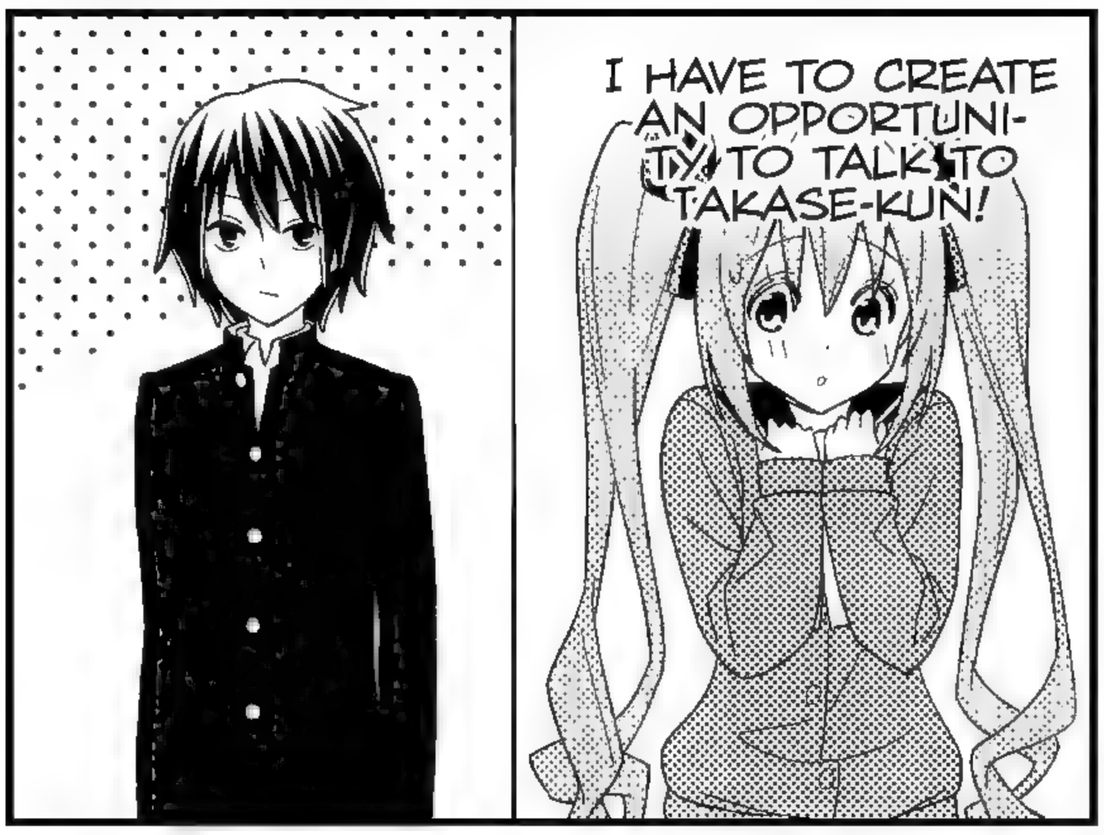
EN CHARD! EN CHARD!

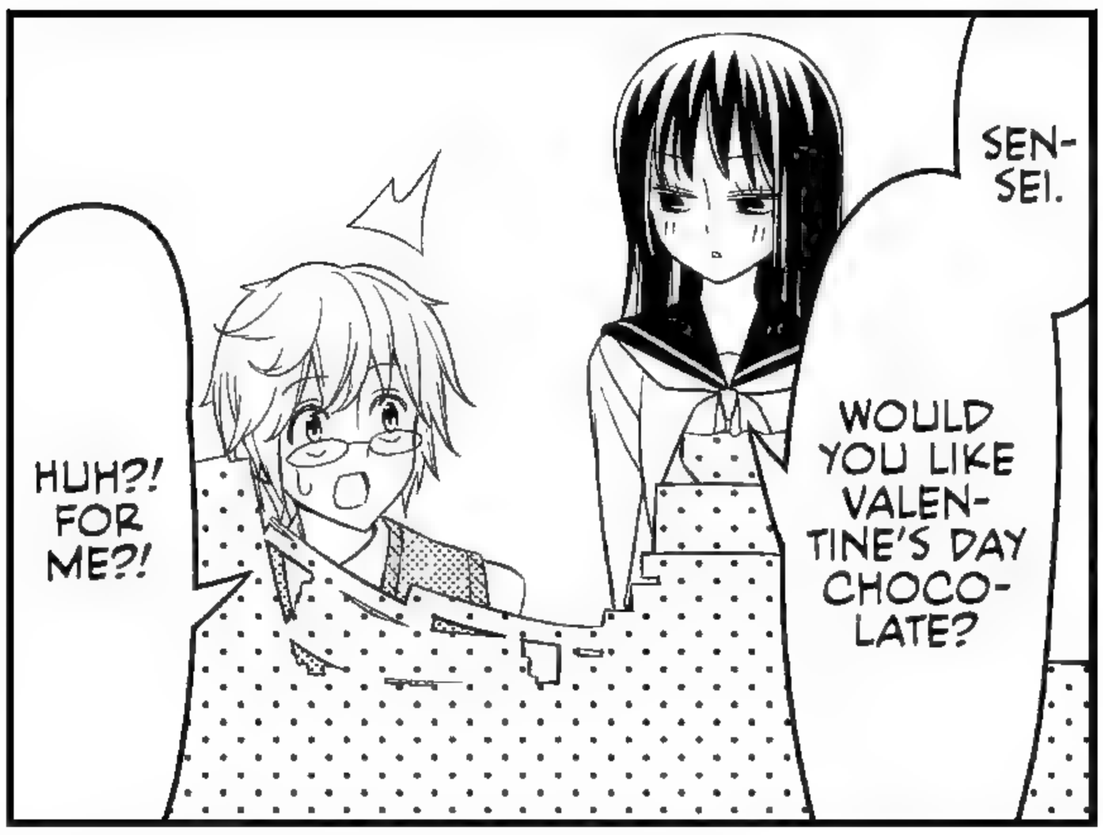
YOU FIENDS!

KATORI-SEMPAI.

KA ☆ TO ☆ RI

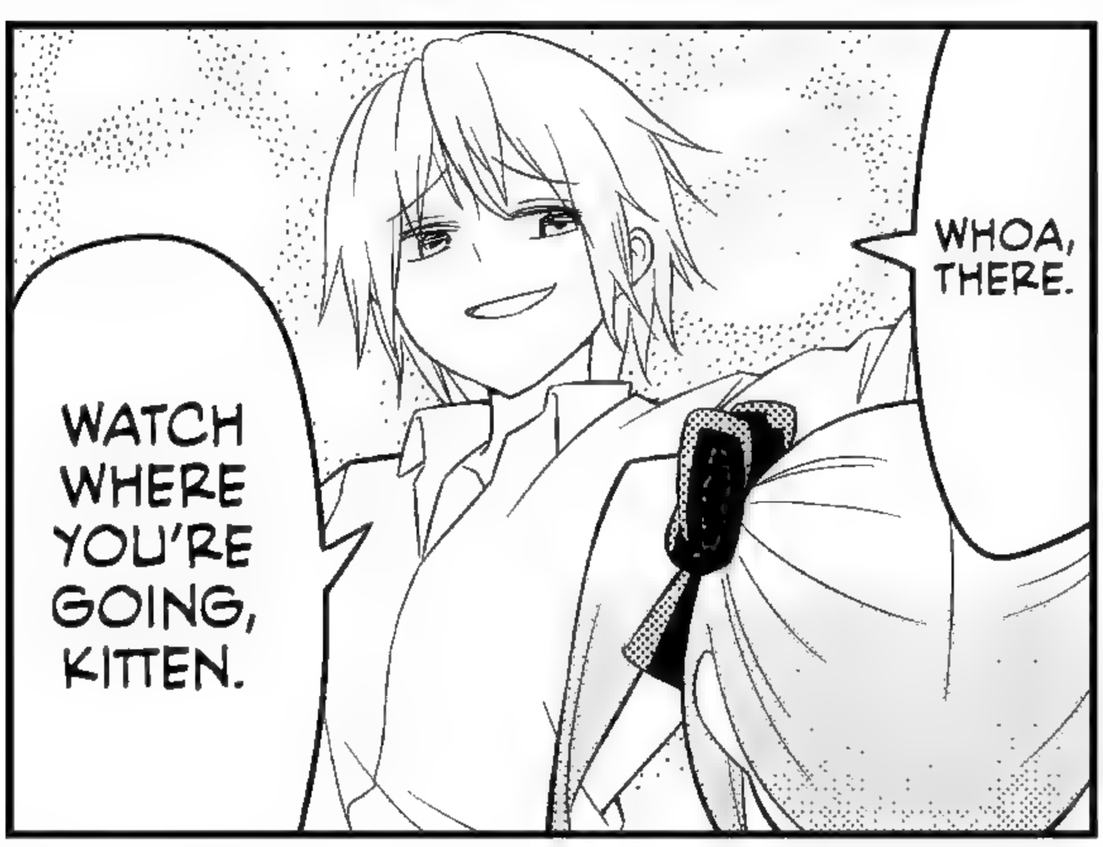
EN CHARD?!

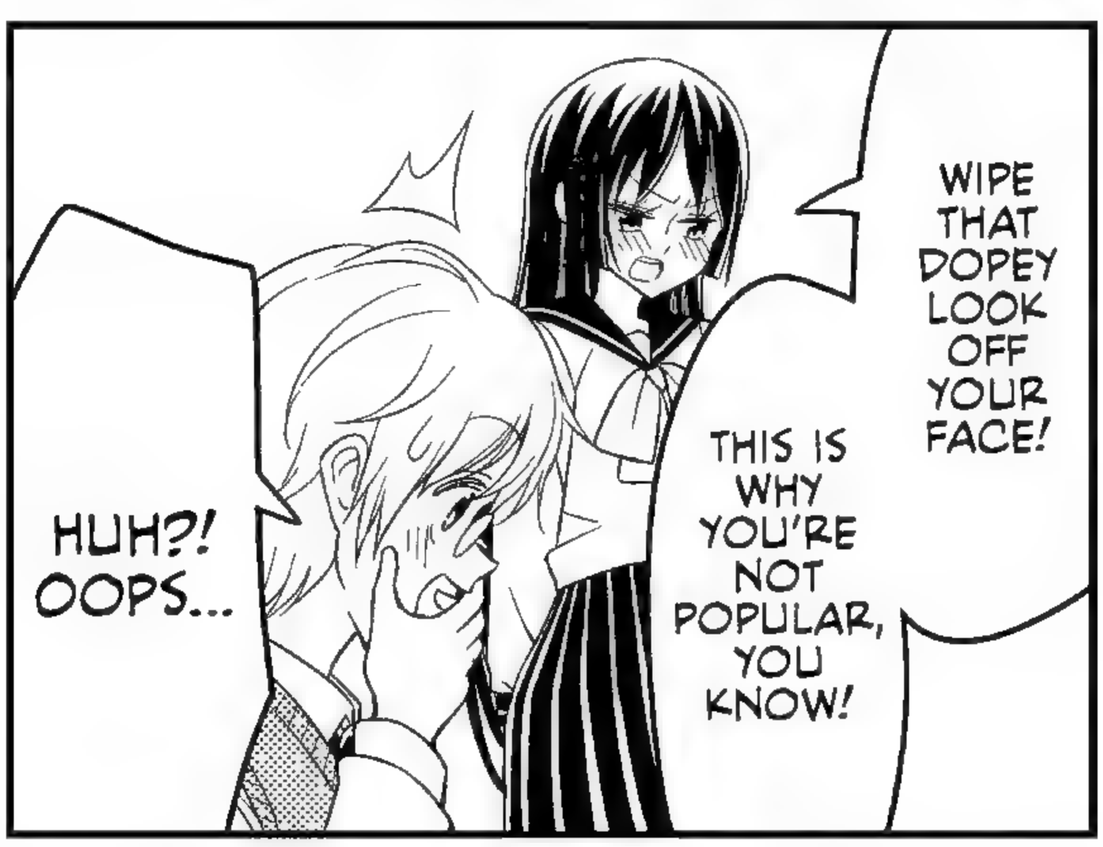

I HAVE TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO TAKASE-KUN!

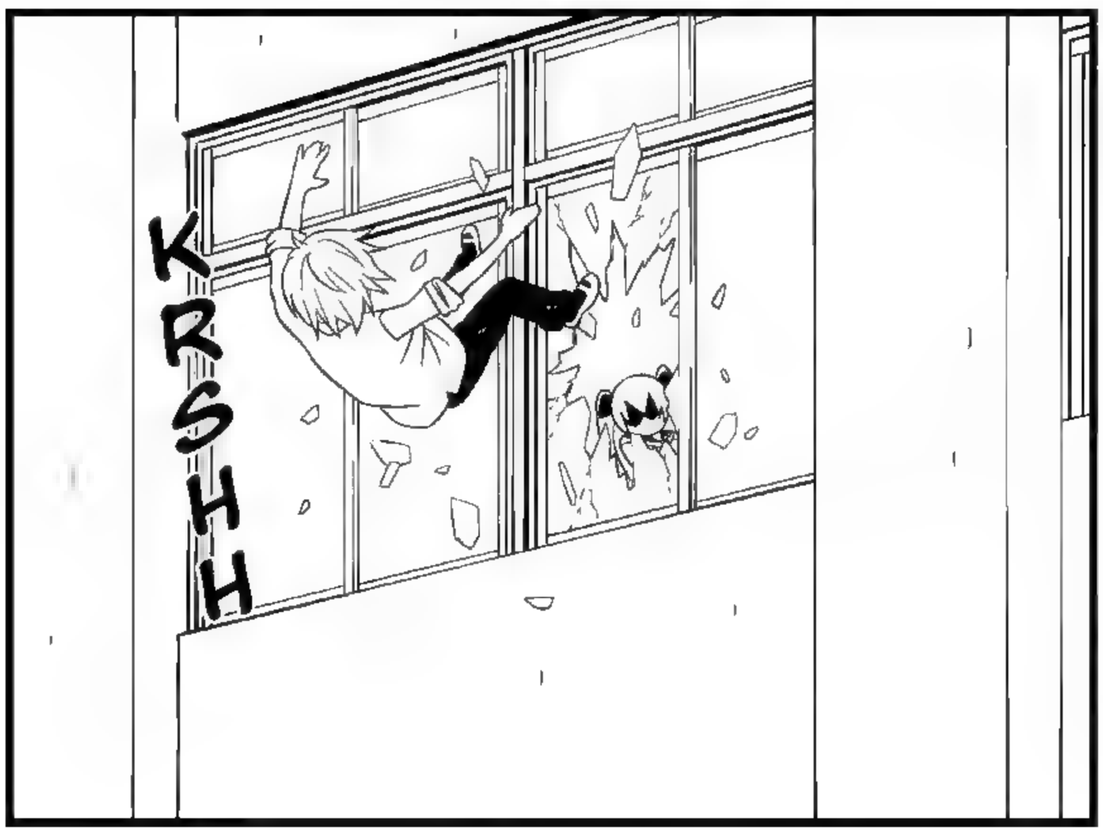

SENSEI.
WOULD YOU LIKE VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATE?
HUH?! FOR ME?!

EEEEK!
BUMP
I'M SO SORRY!

IT'S FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE, OF COURSE.
THAT'S FINE!
I'M HAPPY TO RECEIVE ANY!


WHOA, THERE.
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, KITTEN.


WIPE THAT DOPEY LOOK OFF YOUR FACE!
THIS IS WHY YOU'RE NOT POPULAR, YOU KNOW!
HUH?! OOPS...

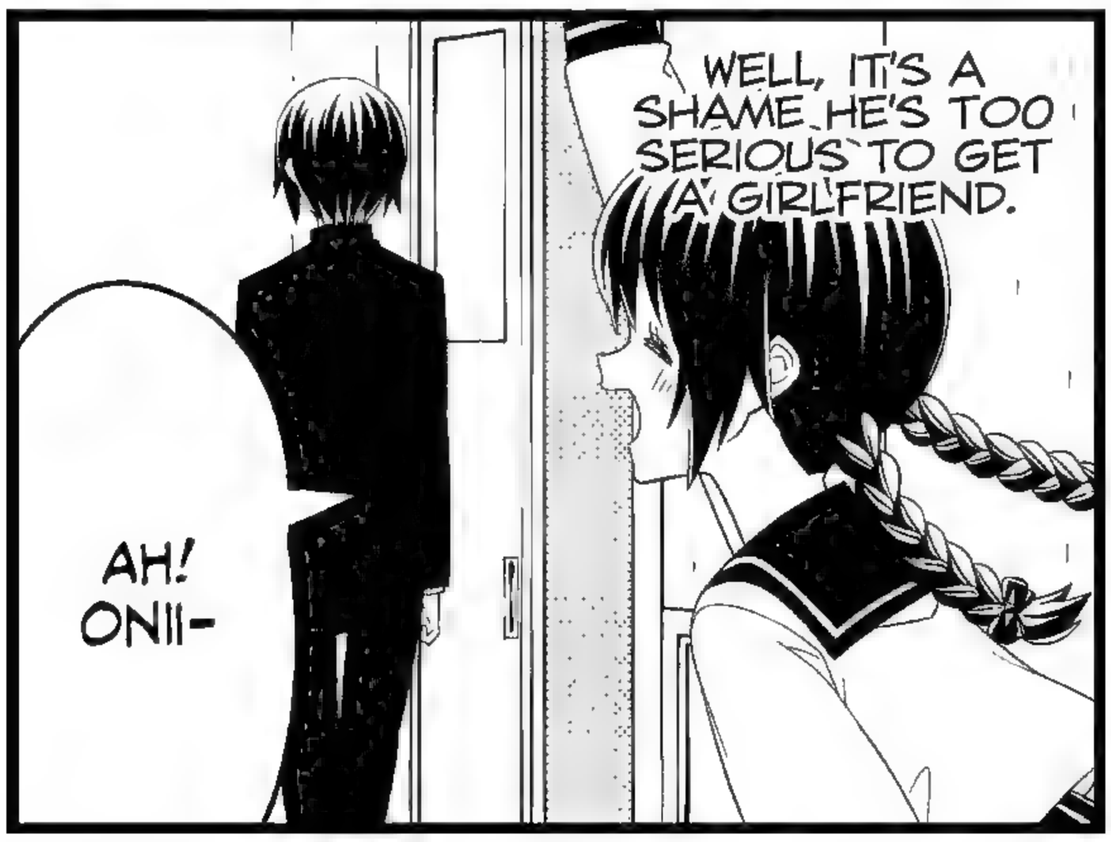

KRSHH

AND YOUR DESK IS ALWAYS A MESS.
YOU SHOULD ACT MORE LIKE A TEACHER...
SO? WHERE ARE THOSE CHOCOLATES?

TSURE × DURE

CHILDREN

My Brother's Girlfriend



HUH? ERR...

SHE'S MY CLASS-MATE, MINA-GAWA-SAN.

WHO IS SHE, ONII-CHAN?

H-HOTA-RU?!

I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME!

TWITCH

ONII-CHAN ...?

HOTARU! DON'T BE RUDE!

DO YOU HAVE OTHER FEMALE FRIENDS?

ARE YOU TWO CLOSE?

JUST A CLASS-MATE?

UH-HUH.

OH, THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER MY OLDER BROTHER ...

IS SHE YOUR SISTER?

HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU REALLY LOVE YOUR BROTHER, DON'T YOU?

HOW POLITE!

OH, MY!

THIS IS PER-FECTLY NOR-MAL.

SQUEEZE

IT'S JUST LIP SER-VICE.

NO...

...ARE YOU TWO GOING OUT?

I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT,

BUT MAYBE, JUST MAYBE...

I THINK IT'S ADORABLE.

SORRY, SHE'S KINDA CLINGY...

R-RIGHT?! THAT'S WHAT I—

OH, NO.

WE'RE JUST FRIENDS.

SO?

WHAT ARE YOU TO MY BROTHER?

FOR NOW.

HUH?!

BA-DUM

WHAT AM I?

HO-TARU, THAT HURTS.

CLUTCH

WHAT IS SHE?!

H-HOTA-RU!

IT'S MEAN TO LEAD HER ON.

WHAT'S WRONG?

TURN HER DOWN ALREADY ...

THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT DATING YET.

I CON-FESSED TO HIM BEFORE,

BUT I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN AN AN-SWER.

NO, I...

SHE'S RIGHT, FURU-YA-KUN.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO REJECT ME, THEN DO IT!

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE OB-VIOUS, RIGHT?!

ONII-CHAN, THIS GIRL MUST BE JOKING!

DUMP HER! DUMP HER! HANG HER OUT TO DRY!

GO! GO! GO, BRO, GO!

I-IT'S NOT LIKE I...

WELL ...

...DI ...

...DISLIKE YOU ...

MINE-GAWA-SAN.

DID I JUST GET REJECT-ED?

THAT'S RIGHT!

ONII-CHAN, YOU BIG DUM-MY!

WRAP

WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU?!

ONII-CHAN DOESN'T NEED A GIRLFRIEND!

HE HAS ME, AFTER ALL!

SHE'S PLAYING WITH YOU!

SHAKE SHAKE

YOU'LL ONLY GET HURT IF YOU DATE HER!

H-HOTA-RU...

SNIFF SNIFF

SORRY, MINA-GAWA-SAN.

RUB RUB

BUT I DON'T WANT TO DATE SOME-ONE...

WITHOUT GIVING IT PROPER THOUGHT.

DON'T WOR-RY.

DATING ...

...ISN'T EVEN ON MY MIND.

AFTER ALL, WITH DAT-ING, UMM,

SO I WANT TO BE FINAN-CIALLY SECURE.

COMES MAR-RIAGE ...

THEN THERE'S KIDS ...

S-SUIT YOURSELF.

MAYBE I'LL WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER, THEN.

N-NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID...

OH, GOSH.

YOU'RE ALREADY THINKING THAT FAR AHEAD?

NO WAY!

I WON'T LET YOU HAVE MY BROTH-ER!

HOTA-RU-CHAN.

WILL YOU CHEER US ON, TOO?

UH-HUH.

HE REALLY IS.

YOU'RE DEAD WRONG!

MY BROTH-ER'S JUST EARNEST!

I'LL LOVE THE BOTH OF YOU!

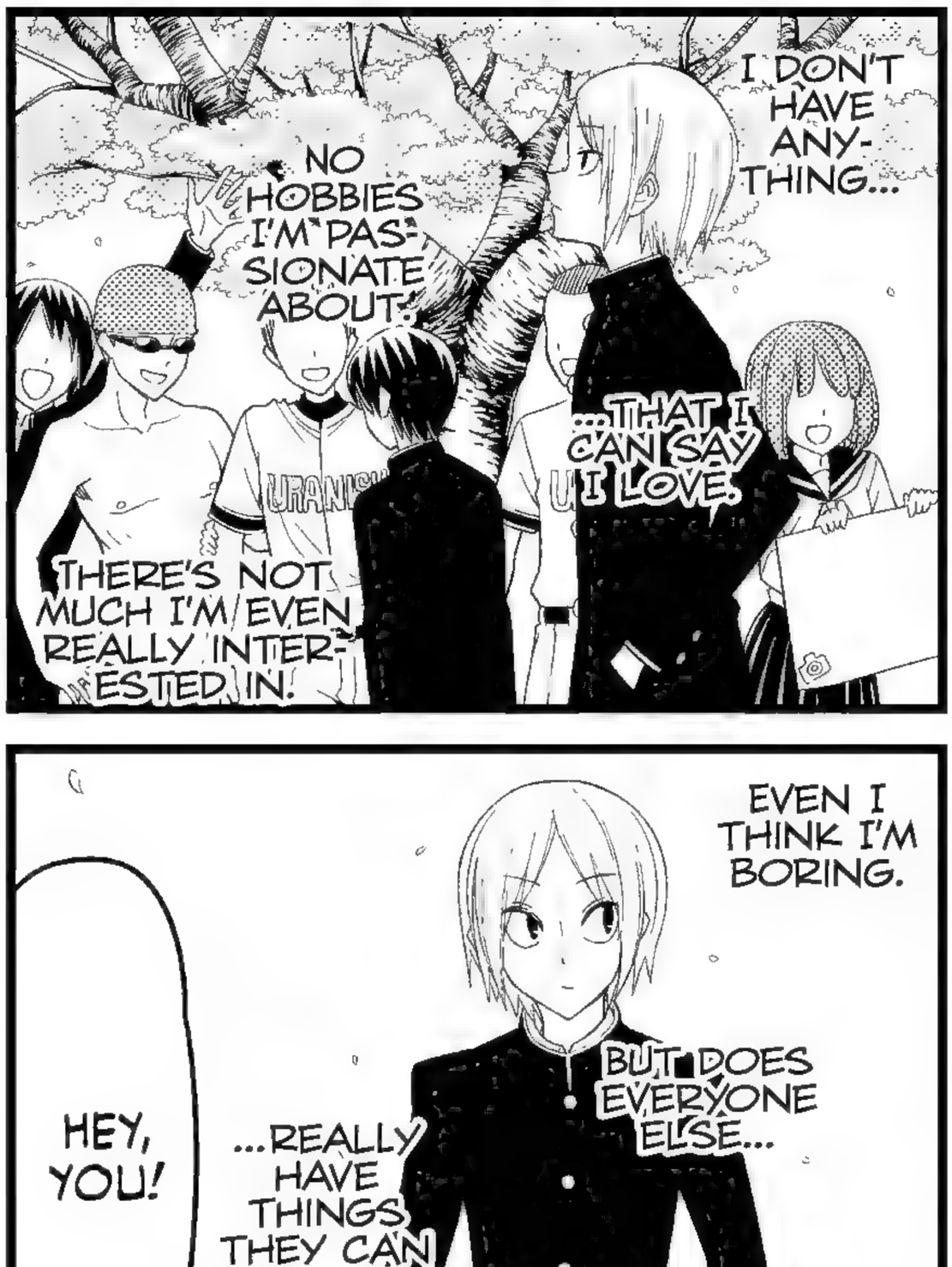
DON'T WOR-RY!

THAT'S WHY I LIKE HIM SO MUCH!

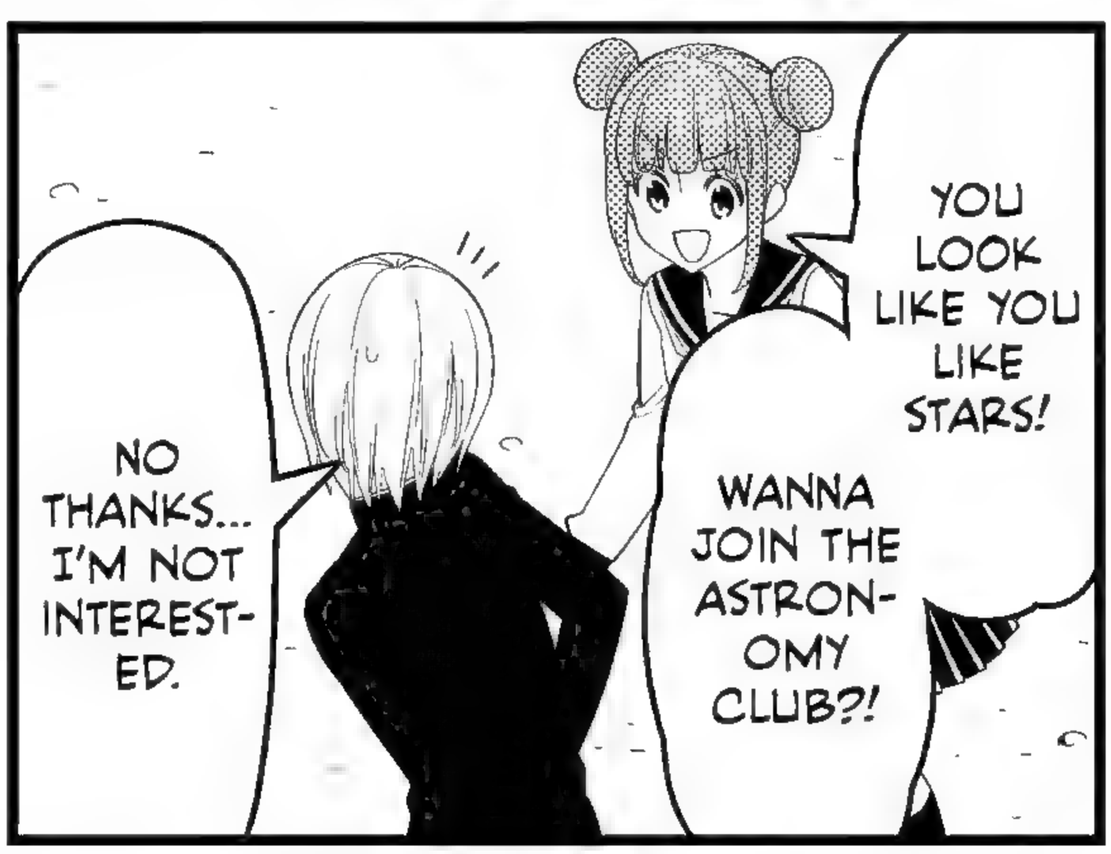
END

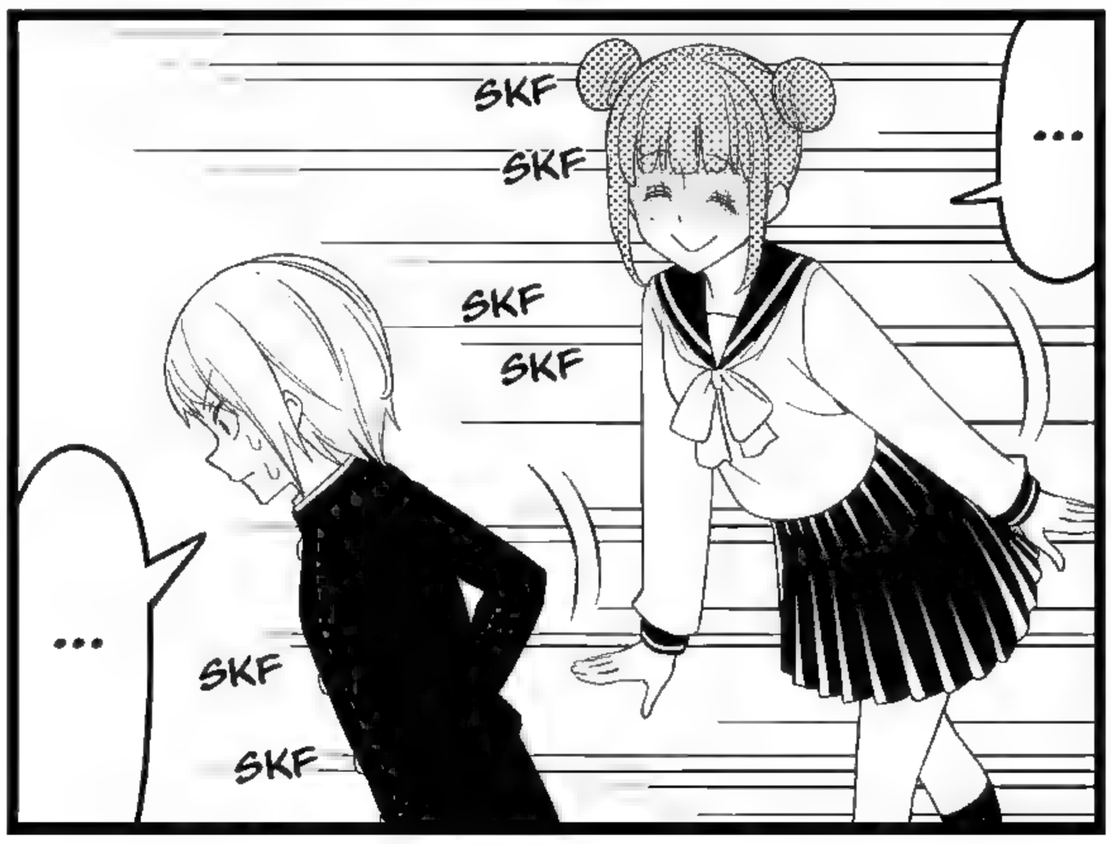
I DE-SPISE YOU!

Spring


I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING...
NO HOBBIES I'M PAS-SIONATE ABOUT.
...THAT I CAN SAY I LOVE.
THERE'S NOT MUCH I'M EVEN REALLY INTER-ESTED IN.

EVEN I THINK I'M BORING.
HEY, YOU!
...REALLY HAVE THINGS THEY CAN SAY THEY LOVE?
BUT DOES EVERYONE ELSE...


YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LIKE STARS!
NO THANKS... I'M NOT INTEREST-ED.
WANNA JOIN THE ASTRON-OMY CLUB?!


SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
SKF
...
...

STARS, HUH?

I DOUBT I'D BE VERY INTEREST-ED...

...BUT MAYBE SOMETHING WILL CHANGE IF I JOIN A CLUB.

HUH?! DID I BLOW IT? ERR...

UMM ...

NOW, NOW, NOW!

HEAR ME OUT, WILL YA?

IS WATCH-ING THE STARS FUN?

Y-YOU BET!

THEY'RE BEAUTI-FUL!

HAVE YOU DECID-ED ON A CLUB YET?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

...NO.

...KAGA.

BUT...

...DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF JUST WATCHING AFTER A WHILE?

IN THAT CASE...

TWINKLE

...WHAT SAY WE CATCH A STAR ORCHES-TRA?

GUESS SO...

SWEAT

SWEAT

SWEAT

SWEAT

IS THIS...

...WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO LAUGH?

SAY, SEM-PAI.

YOU DON'T REALLY LIKE STARS THAT MUCH, DO YOU?

TWITCH

S-SURELY YOU JEST!

I-IS THERE ANY-THING ELSE?

YEAH!

PERKS AND SUCH...

THEN TELL ME,

WHY ARE YOU IN THE ASTRO-NOMY CLUB?

THAT'S, UHH...

BECAUSE I LIKE THE VIBE!

Y'SEE.

...ARE SUPER POPU-LAR!

ASTRON-OMY CLUB MEMBERS ...

HMM.

HOW MANY OTHER MEMBERS ARE THERE?

AS OF NOW, THE PERCENT-AGE OF MEMBERS WHO FOUND RELATION-SHIPS...

IS 100%!

WELL? ISN'T THAT AMAZ-ING?!

...

HUH?

WHY TELL SUCH A BALD-FACED LIE?

WELL, AROUND THERE...

IS THE STAR KNOWN AS SPICA.

WHERE?

BUT THE MORE I HEAR...

...THE MORE I LOSE INTER-EST.

WON'T YOU JOIN? PLEASE?

THERE AREN'T ANY OTH-ER CLUBS YOU WANT TO JOIN, RIGHT?

YOU SEE...

...IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE ONE BIG STAR...

...BUT IT'S ACTUALLY TWO STARS, PULLING EACH OTHER ABOUT IN AN ENDLESS PIROUETTE.

I THINK.

FWIP

WELL, THEN!

LOOK AT THAT!

LET ME TELL YOU A TALE THAT WILL MAKE YOU INTERESTED IN THE STARS!

TWO STARS, WORKING TOGETHER TO SHINE EVEN BRIGHTER!

IT'S ALMOST PHILO-SOPHICAL, DON'TCHA THINK?

...SURE.

...

UHH...

GLANCE GLANCE

AT WHAT, EXACT-LY?

INTER-ESTED NOW?

NOT REALLY.

S-SURE I AM!

YOU'RE REALLY NOT INTER-ESTED IN THE STARS AT ALL, ARE YOU?

MY SENIOR WHO GRAD-UATED, RIGHT?

HE SAID THAT MARTIANS RESEMBLE OCTOPI.

I WAS LIKE, "HAVE YOU EVEN SEEN ONE?"

...WHY TAKO-YAKI?

So, we made takoyaki with one of those pans you can by for home, but while Sempai was looking at Mars, I was stuffing the whole time! Then he ut at me, and boy, his scary f was way hen he ry! I y, I was s d! Then hat, since e d out of we de to use fill d and

REMIND ME WHAT STARS HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?

ANY-THING ELSE?

THAT'S STRANGE.

I TOTALLY COPIED WHAT SEMPAI TOLD ME...

LOOKS LIKE IT WON'T PIQUE MY INTEREST. AFTER ALL.

I SHOULD SEARCH ELSEWHERE.

MMM.

I FEEL LIKE I WAS TAUGHT ALL SORTS OF THINGS, BUT...

AND IN SUMMER, WE SWAPPED SCARY STORIES ABOUT ALIENS WHILE EATING SHAVED ICE!

THEN IN AUTUMN, THERE WAS MOON VIEWING.

OH!

MARS!

THE TAKO-YAKI* I ATE WHILE WATCH-ING IT...

...WAS REALLY TASTY!

*OCTOPUS PAN-FRIED IN BALLS OF DOUGH.

NO HOBBIES I'M PASSION-ATE ABOUT.

I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING...

THERE'S NOT MUCH I'M EVEN REALLY INTERESTED IN.

...THAT I CAN SAY I LOVE.

I CAN TELL THE ASTRONOMY CLUB MEANS A LOT TO HER.

ONE THING'S FOR SURE.

I FIND THAT PART OF ME SO BORING...

THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMETHING I COULD REALLY LOVE.

IF ONLY I...

...COULD GET SO PASSION-ATE ABOUT SOMETHING.

I'M NOT SURE...

...IF THIS IS WHAT...

...I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.

I'M SURE IT'LL BE FUN!

C'MON! LET'S DO IT TO-GETHER, KAGA-KUN!

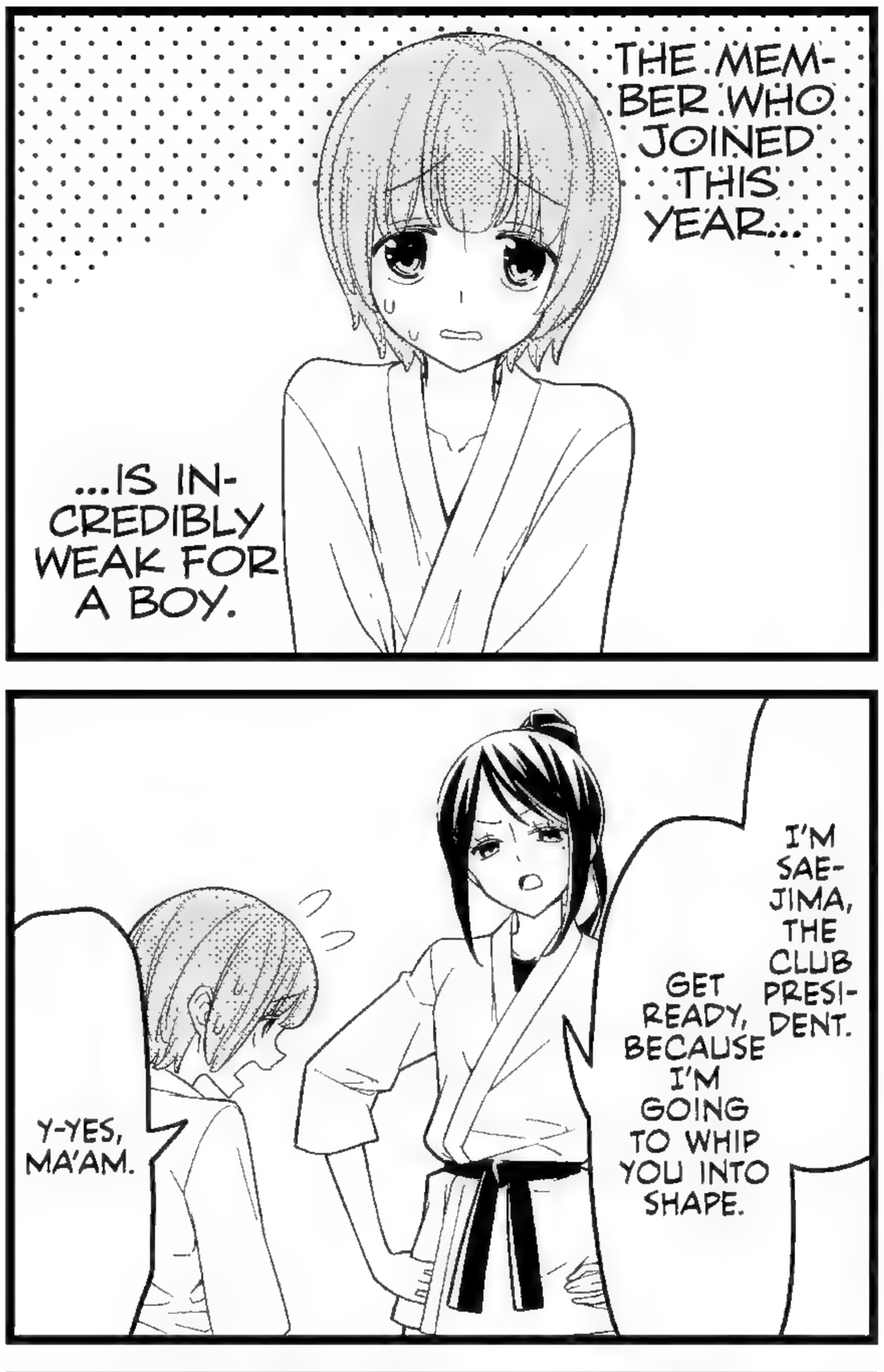
END

...OKAY.

BUT ONE THING I KNOW...

...IS THAT I WANT TO SEE THIS SMILE MORE.

I'll Make a Man out of You


THE MEMBER WHO JOINED THIS YEAR...
...IS INCREDIBLY WEAK FOR A BOY.
I'M SAEJIMA, THE CLUB PRESIDENT.
GET READY, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO WHIP YOU INTO SHAPE.
Y-YES, MA'AM.
TWITCH
O-OSU!
LEAVE YES AND NO AT THE DOOR!
HERE, WE RESPOND WITH "*OSU!"
...WHAT A CUTIE.

*OSU: A VERY HEARTY VERSION OF "YES" OFTEN USED IN BUSHIDO.

?
?
I'M THE PRESIDENT! I CAN'T GO EASY ON HIM JUST BECAUSE HE'S CUTE!
SLAP
AAH! KEEP IT TOGETHER!
SLAP
O-OSU!
BECAUSE I WANT TO BECOME MORE MANLY...
SOMA...
WHY DID YOU JOIN THE KARATE CLUB?
O-OSU!
THIRTY PUSH-UPS!
O-OSU!
THEN QUIT BEING SO DEL-ICATE!
PUMP YOUR-SELF UP!
SHAKE
SHAKE
ナニニニヨー!
ONE!
OSU!
OSU!
FLAP
FLAP
SHAKE
SHAKE
HEEEE!
SHAKE
SHAKE
...
SHAKE
SHAKE
DAMN...!

WHAT ABOUT SIT-UPS?!

NRRRF!

HUFF HUFF

S-SORRY!

I'M REALLY WEAK ...

YOU CAN'T EVEN DO PUSH-UPS?!

FWIP

QUIT YOUR WHIN-ING!

SHOW SOME SPIRIT!

FWIP

I'LL BEAT SOME SPIRIT INTO YOU!

DON'T ACT SOFT!

HRGH...

SHAKE

SHAKE

TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE

!!!

DWOHHHH!

PINCH PINCH PINCH PINCH

???

DAHHHH!

WHERE DOES A WEAKLING LIKE YOU GET OFF SAYING SOME-THING SO INDE-CENT?!

Y-YOU FOOL!

WH-WH-WH-WHAT?!

I'M SERI-OUS!

YOU'RE ALL I'VE GOT, PREZ!

...TO BE-COME MY MAN?!

S-S-SAYING YOU WANT ...

A-A-ARE YOU ...

I WANT TO BE-COME A MAN!

O... OSU!

WH-WHAT NEXT, PREZ?!

IT'S NO USE ...!

TO THINK SOME-THING LIKE THIS WOULD BREAK ME...

D-DON'T SAY THAT!

YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE WHO'S GONE SO FAR FOR ME!

SORRY, SOMA.

I FEAR MAKING A MAN OUT OF YOU IS BEYOND ME...

...THEN I DON'T MIND BEING TOSSED AROUND!

PLEASE!

IF IT'S YOU, PREZ...

A-ALL RIGHT!

I'LL DO IT!

GOOD AN-SWER!

TH-THEN TRY TO TAKE ME DOWN!

TWITCH

I'LL ONLY AC-KNOWL-EDGE STRONG MEN!

HOW-EVER!

FWOO

I AM THE CAPTAIN OF THE KARATE CLUB!

M-ME, TAKE YOU DOWN?

TWITCH

WH-WH-WHAT'S THIS?!

THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE!

GIVING UP AL-READY?!

EVEN AGAINST A WEAK-LING...

WHISH

...I WON'T SHOW ANY MERC-

I'VE ALREADY STEELED MY RE-SOLVE.

HOW DARE YOU RUN AWAY NOW!

IF YOU'RE A MAN, THEN FIGHT!

...

ERG!

TWITCH

TWITCH

HNH!

RUB RUB

O-OF COURSE ...

...I'LL STILL BE THE VIC-TOR!

WILL YOU TRAIN ME NOW?!

P-PREZ!

DOES THIS MEAN I WIN?!

I CAN'T DEFEAT HIM...

IT'S NO USE!

I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO STRIKE SOMEONE SO FRAIL!

...THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME...

VERY WELL.

BUT I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW ...

IT SEEMS A DRAW IS AT...

BUT HE CAN'T DEFEAT ME, EITHER!

HYAH! HYAH! HYAH!

LET'S DO OUR BEST, TO-GETHER!

OSU!

SQUEEZE

HYAH!

END

...OSU!

...GUHAH!

Contact

KAMINE, THE GIRL WHO SITS NEXT TO ME...
...AVOIDS ME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
BUT WHY?
STARE
BA-DUM
...
WHY...?!

TWITCH

!

WHAT'S UP?!

G-GODA-KUN!

CLATTER

I...

I WILL IN A BIT.

AREN'T YOU GOING HOME?

...I DROPPED A CON-TACT.

SO, UMM...

U-UMM ...

JUST NOW ...

UH...

UMM...

SHE WON'T EVEN MAKE EYE CON-TACT WITH ME.

DID I WRONG HER IN SOME WAY?

I'LL BE CAREFUL NOT TO STEP ON IT ON MY WAY OUT.

DON'T WORRY.

GOT IT.

TURN

...

WOULD YOU HELP ME LOOK FOR IT?!

GUESS I'LL GO HOME.

KAMI-NE.

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME, ISN'T THERE?

HUH?!

WHAT?!

ALL RIGHT. LET'S LOOK TOGETHER.

THE FACT THAT SHE ASKED FOR MY HELP...

...MUST MEAN SHE DOESN'T HATE ME, RIGHT?

I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT-EVER YOU HAVE TO SAY.

SO PLEASE, TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.

O-ONLY SOME-TIMES.

LIKE WHEN I WIPE SWEAT OFF MY FACE...

DO YOU DROP CONTACTS OFTEN?

IF YOU'D GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT...

...THEN YOU ALREADY KNOW, RIGHT?

YEAH, YOU ARE SWEATING A LOT, HUH?

...?!

NO... NOT REALLY.

...DID I DO SOME-THING WRONG?

I'M SORRY FOR NOT REALIZ-ING.

DON'T BE.

THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO APOL-OGIZE FOR!

NOTHING COMES TO MIND, I'M AFRAID.

IN CLASS ...

WHAT EXACT-LY DID I...?

LET'S LOOK FOR YOUR CON-TACT.

Y-YEAH...

I JUST HOPE I CAN FIND IT...

YOU LENT ME YOUR NOTES ...

WANNA TAKE A LOOK?

HM? WHAT ABOUT THAT IS SO...

WHEN I WAS STRUG-GLING TO SEE BE-CAUSE OF MY POOR EYESIGHT, REMEM-BER?

...

GODA-KUN?

HM? DID YOU FIND IT?

AND ...

YOU WERE...

...JUST SO KIND, GODA-KUN.

WHAT'S YOUR REPLY?

AAH, THE OLD UNWELCOME FAVOR, IS IT?!

I'M SORRY, KAMINE.

OH, I WAS JUST, UMM... TRYING TO CON-VEY MY FEEL-INGS TO YOU... IS ALL.

...TO WHAT?

I-IT'S ALL RIGHT...

TRUTH BE TOLD, I DON'T KNOW HOW GIRLS THINK.

NOTH-ING LIKE THAT! I JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, TOO.

AND SO... YOU WANT ME TO SHOW MY SINCERITY?

...

DRIP DRIP DRIP

IF I'M CLOSE TO YOU, I'M SURE I'LL CAUSE YOU GRIEF AGAIN.

ALL RIGHT. IF YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH THIS, THEN...

...I HOPE WE CAN GET ALONG.

EVEN SO...

...FOR-GIVE ME.

NO...

I'M SORRY, TOO.

ARE YOU OKAY, KAMI-NE?!

DID I SAY SOME-THING STRANGE?

TWITCH...

HM?!

I FOUND YOUR CONTACT, KAMINE!

...WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

HM? ABOUT WHAT?

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN LAY IT ON ME.

I HAVEN'T CONFESSED PROPERLY YET, HAVE I?

?

?

DOES THAT MEAN ...

YOU'LL STAY WITH ME?

STAY WITH YOU...?

I LIKE YOU.

WELL, YEAH.

SEAT-WISE?

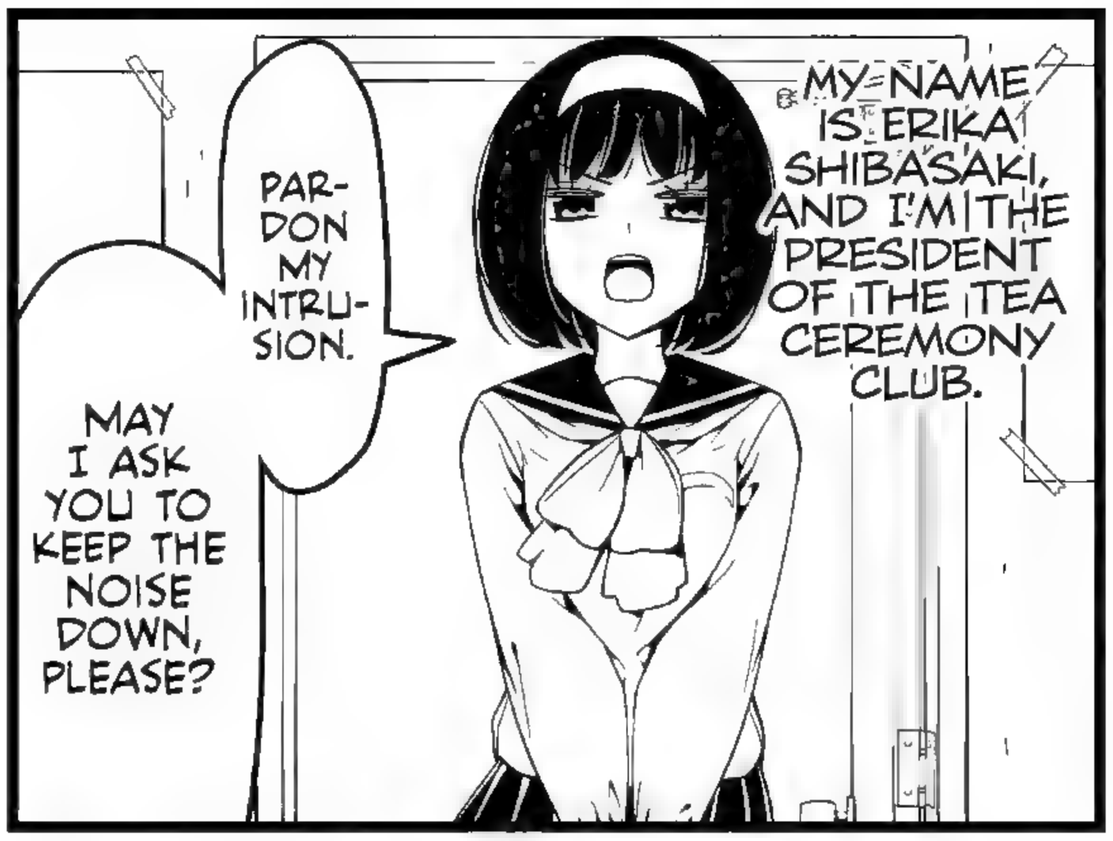
I SAID I HOPE WE CAN GET ALONG.

AAAH!

END

THANK YOOOU!

Mask


PAR-DON MY INTRU-SION.
MAY I ASK YOU TO KEEP THE NOISE DOWN, PLEASE?
MY NAME IS ERIKA SHIBASAKI, AND I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE TEA CEREMONY CLUB.

I WILL COME AS MANY TIMES AS I NEED TO...
UNTIL YOU AMEND YOUR WAYS.
NOW, NOW.
YOU AGAIN?
GIVE IT A REST ALREADY.

A-AS AM I!
THIS IS OUR LAST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
WE'RE BUSY PRAC-TICING FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

I WANT TO PLAY SONGS ON GUITAR LIKE "SEVEN NATION ARMY," "SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT," "I BET YOU LOOK GOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR," AND SO ON, TOO!
THE LAST SCHOOL FESTIVAL OF HIGH SCHOOL...

PERFECT.

I ACTUALLY LOVE ROCK MUSIC...

...BUT THE LIGHT MUSIC CLUB IS MADE UP ENTIRELY OF BOYS.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

I'D LIKE TO JOIN THE CLUB.

...UHH.

I ONLY JOINED THE TEA CEREMONY CLUB BECAUSE MY FRIEND IS A MEMBER.

WHAT SORT OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO, ERIKA?

B-BACH, MOST-LY.

...ARE YOU FEELIN' OKAY?

SHIBA-SAKI...

BUT FOR MY LAST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL...

...I WANT TO PERFORM MY HEART OUT AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!

BUT I CAN'T JUST ASK THEM TO LET ME JOIN **NOW.**

!

YOU LITTLE ...

MUSICIANS SHOULD SPEAK THROUGH MUSIC!

YOU BRUTE!

YOUR VOICE GIVES YOU AWAY.

CAN IT.

I'M JUST A WANDERING SOUL LOOKING TO JOIN.

WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

WHY SHOULD WE?

YOU WANT MORE MEMBERS?

WHY DON'T WE LET HER SHOW US WHAT SHE'S GOT?

NOW, NOW, UBUKATA.

...

AND WHO'RE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

HO HO HO HO

COULD SUCH A PERSON REALLY PLAY GUITAR?

SHIBASAKI-SAN IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE TEA CEREMONY CLUB.

ARE YOU SCARED OF ME?

HO HO HO HO

OH, MY...

...CALL ME MISS WABI-SABI.

PLEASE ...

EEEEK

EEEEK

THAT WAS GREAT, SHIBA-SA...

MISS WABI-SABI!

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY PLAY-ING?

WELL, THEN. IF I MAY BE SO BOLD,

PLEASE LISTEN TO MY PERFOR-MANCE.

GET LOST ONCE YOU'RE DONE.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND MY SKILL NOW?!

WELL, UBU-KA-

HO HO HO HO

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, UBUKATA-SAN?!

GREE

THAT WAS RAD.

YEAH...

SHE'S PRETTY GOOD.

REAL GOOD.

YEAH.

GWOOOW

GYA GYA GYA

BUT AFTER SPEAKING WITH YOU, I KNOW NOW!

I ALSO... ...SEEM TO HAVE HAD THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT YOU.

NO, NO...

W-WELL, AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND!

THOUGH I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

NO... ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO PLAY TOGETHER AND...

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANNA DISCUSS?

BUT I'VE SEEN YOU IN A NEW LIGHT, SHIBASAKI.

HONESTLY ... I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL FOR SHOW.

THEN GET LOST.

UBUKATA-SAN...

GET LOST.

UH?

WHAT HAPPENED TO MISS WABISABI?!

MISS WABISABI!

SAYS THE ONE TRYING TO HIDE HER IDENTITY UNDER THAT STUPID MASK.

YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY CRAZY!

JUST HOW LOW CAN YOU BE?!

SO LEAVE.

I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ONCE YOU WERE DONE.

UMM. I'M NOT SURE I FOL-LOW...

YEAH, YEAH. HURRY UP AND GET OUT, SHIBA-SAKI.

MY NAME IS MISS WABI-SABI!

IDEN-TITY?! WHAT-EVER DO YOU MEAN?

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN JOIN THE BAND.

YOU CAN PLAY, ALL RIGHT,

BUT YOU WIT-NESSED MY ABILITY!

THIS BAND IS...

YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME TWICE!

...I'M STILL WAY BET-TER THAN YOU.

ALSO ...

THIS BAND IS...!

F*CK!

OH? DON'T MIND ME.

I JUST CAME TO RETRIEVE MY GUITAR CASE.

SHIBA-SA-

MISS WABI-SABI!

DASH

GO ON, UBU-KATA.

APOL-OGIZE.

...

WHY'D YOU SNAP AT HER LIKE THAT?!

THAT CHICK NEVER SHUTS UP.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE HER CRY!

HOW CAN YOU TELL THROUGH THE MASK?

...YES?

HO HO HO HO

I WAS COOL WITH LETTING HER JOIN.

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE AGAINST IT, UBU-KATA.

DAHH.

DAHH.

SHUT UP, WILL YA?

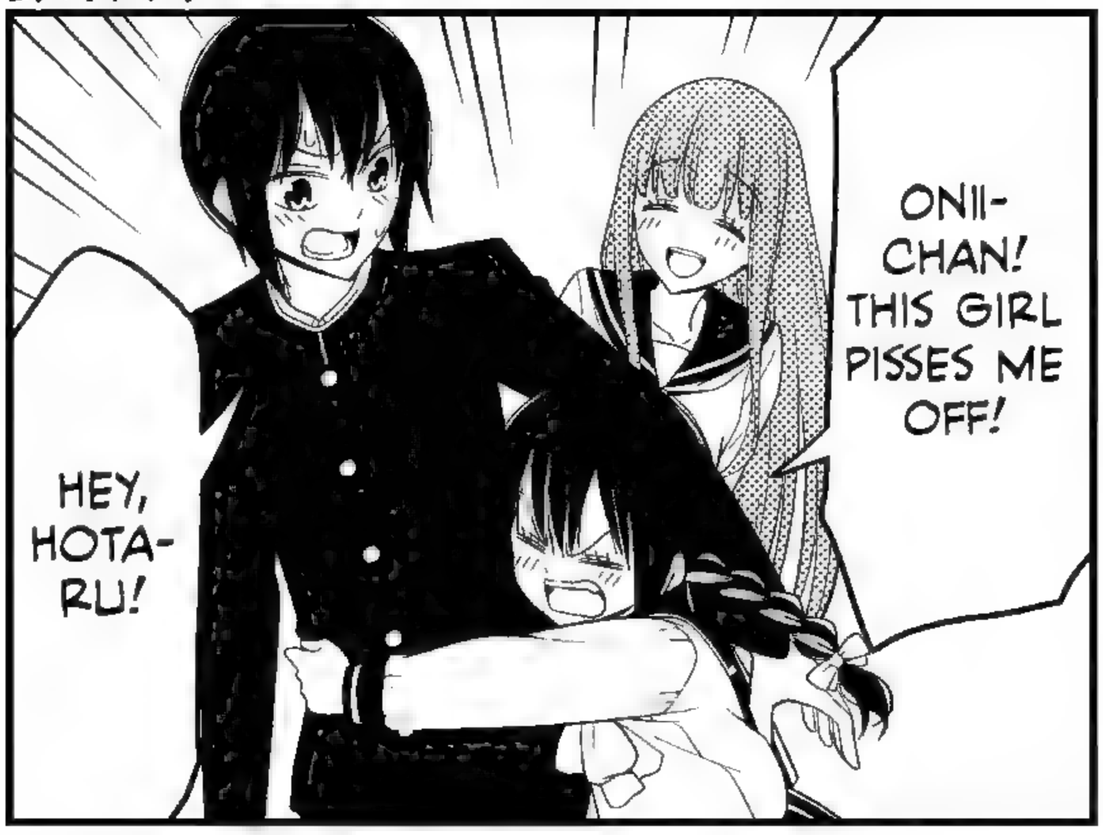
IT'S TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NO-

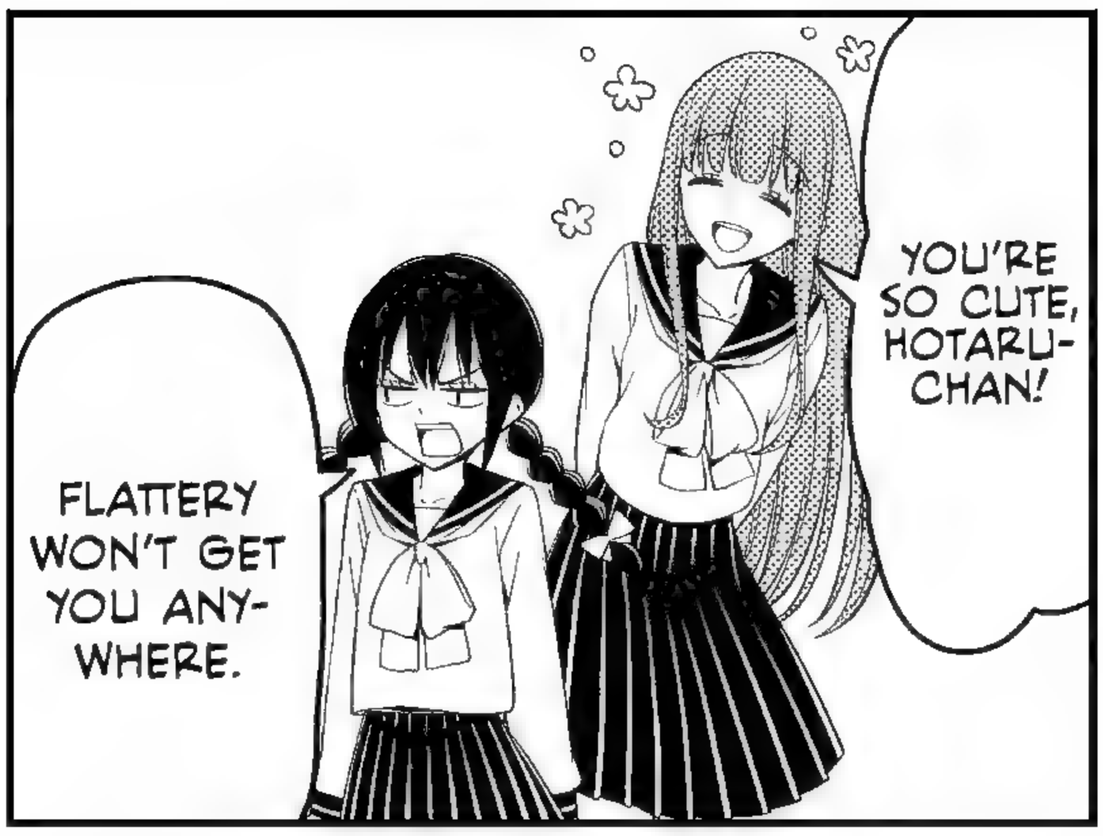
EEEEEEEK

END

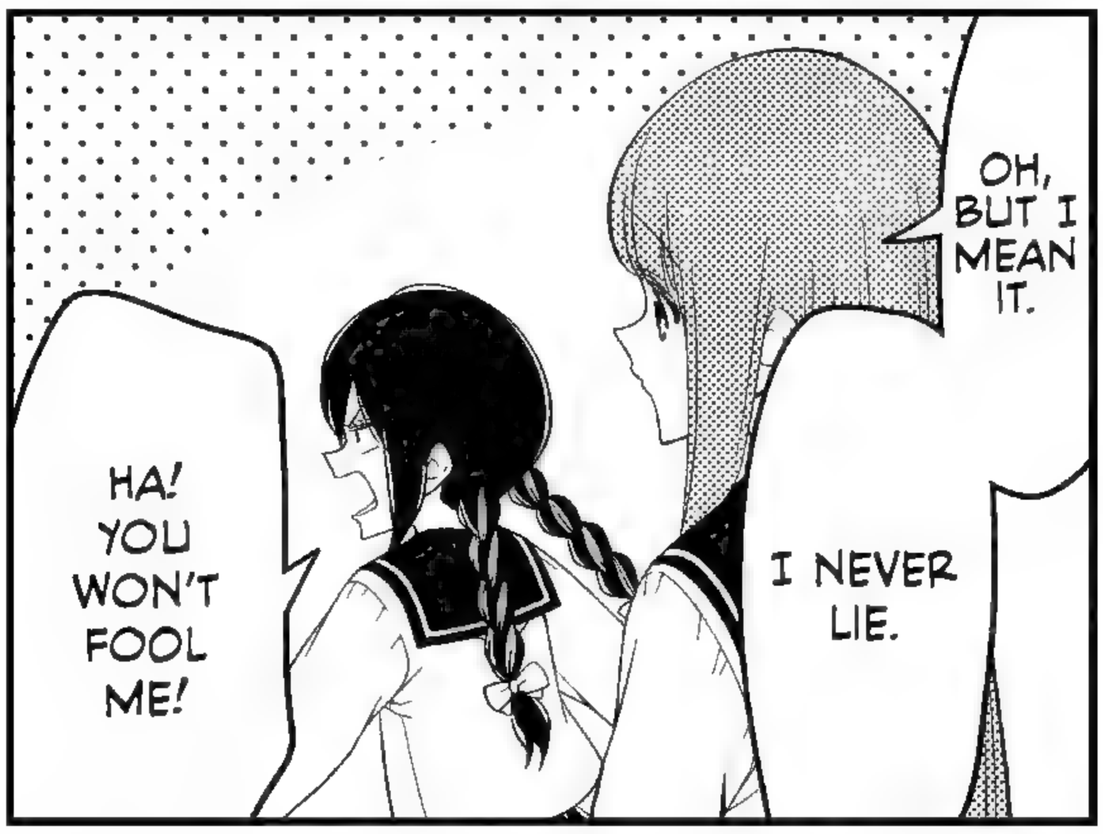
TSURE × DURE

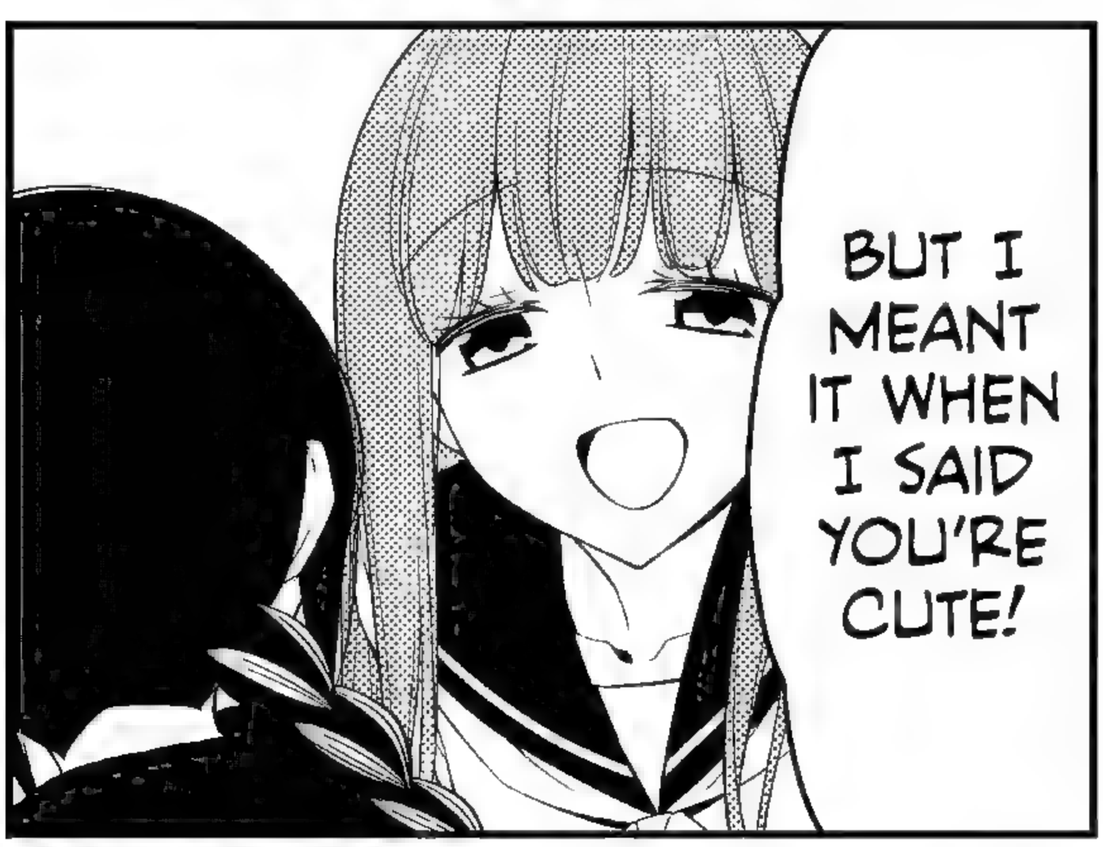
CHILDREN

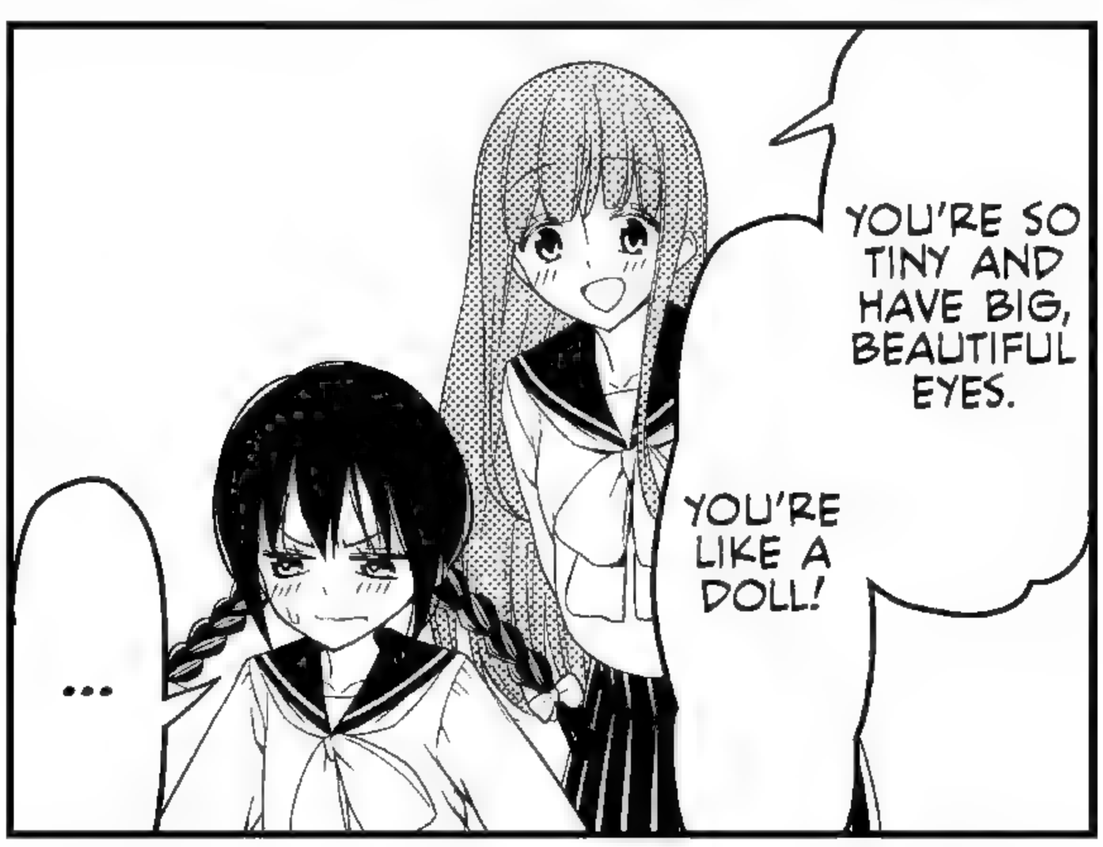

HEY, HOTA-RU!
ONII-CHAN! THIS GIRL PISSES ME OFF!


FLATTERY WON'T GET YOU ANY-WHERE.
YOU'RE SO CUTE, HOTARU-CHAN!

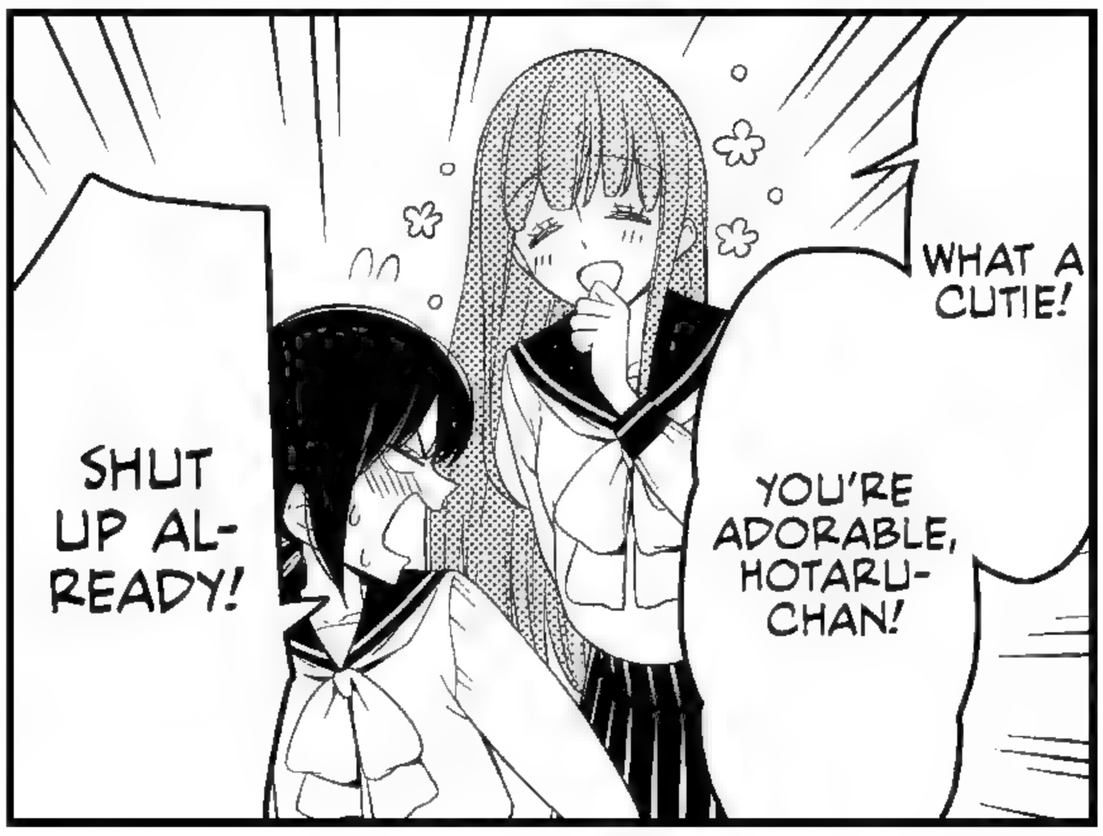
AH!
SO YOU WERE LYING!
SOR-RY.
I COULDN'T HELP BUT TEASE YOU!


HA! YOU WON'T FOOL ME!
OH, BUT I MEAN IT.
I NEVER LIE.


BUT I MEANT IT WHEN I SAID YOU'RE CUTE!


...
YOU'RE LIKE A DOLL!
YOU'RE SO TINY AND HAVE BIG, BEAUTIFUL EYES.

GAAH!


SHUT UP AL-READY!
WHAT A CUTIE!
YOU'RE ADORABLE, HOTARU-CHAN!

HEY, YOU GUYS GET ANY NEW MEMBERS?

WELL...

ONE INTERESTING ADDITION.

NEW MEMBER, SCORE!

I SHOULD TEXT SEMPAI THE NEWS!

BY SEMPAI, YOU MEAN THE ONE YOU MENTIONED EARLIER?

I GOT A ONE BOY TO JOIN...

...BUT I NEED A GIRL TO JOIN, TOO, OR ELSE NO ROMANCE WILL BLOSSOM.

UH-HUH!

HE TEASED ME, SAYING I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RECRUIT ANY NEW MEMBERS...

...SO I'M GONNA MAKE HIM PRAISE ME LOADS!

WE MIGHT GET A PAIRING SOON, TOO.

UBU-KATA AND THE NEW GIRL.

COULD HAPPEN.

WHAT?! UBU?!

TAK TAK TAK TAK

YOU MUST BE CLOSE.

OH, Y'KNOW!

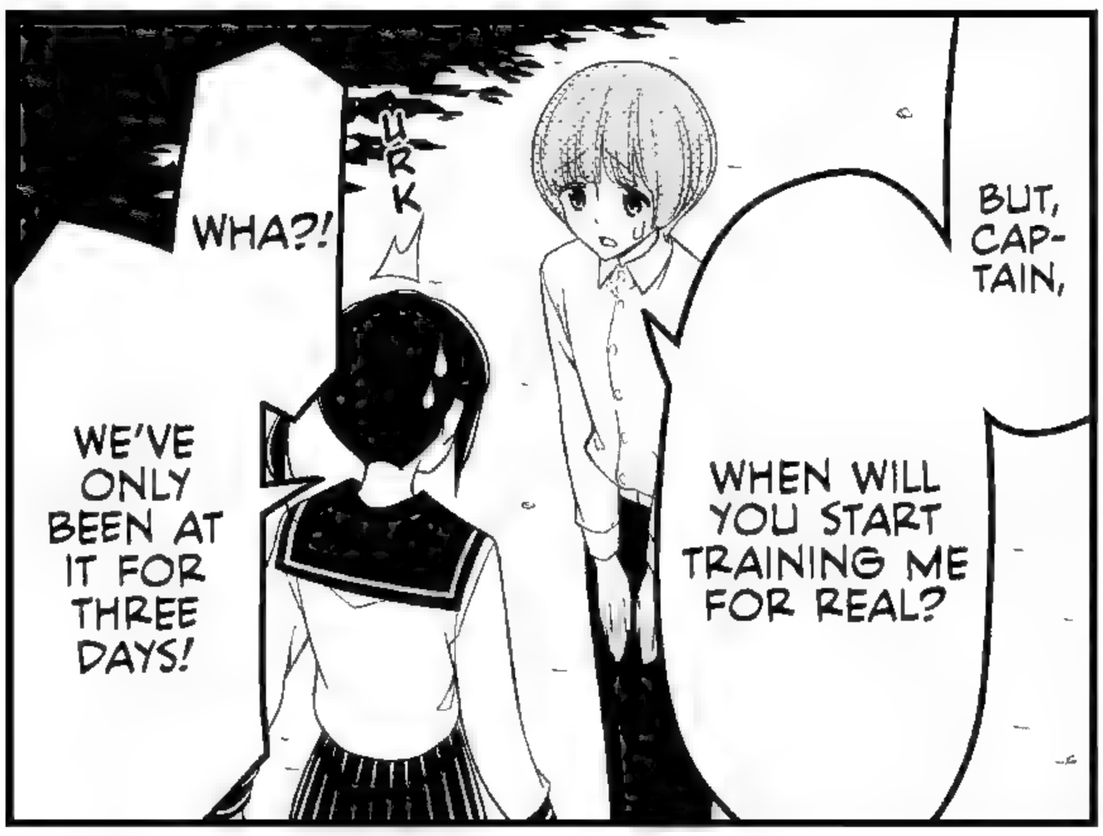
HE PUT THE MOVES ON A FIRST-YEAR?!

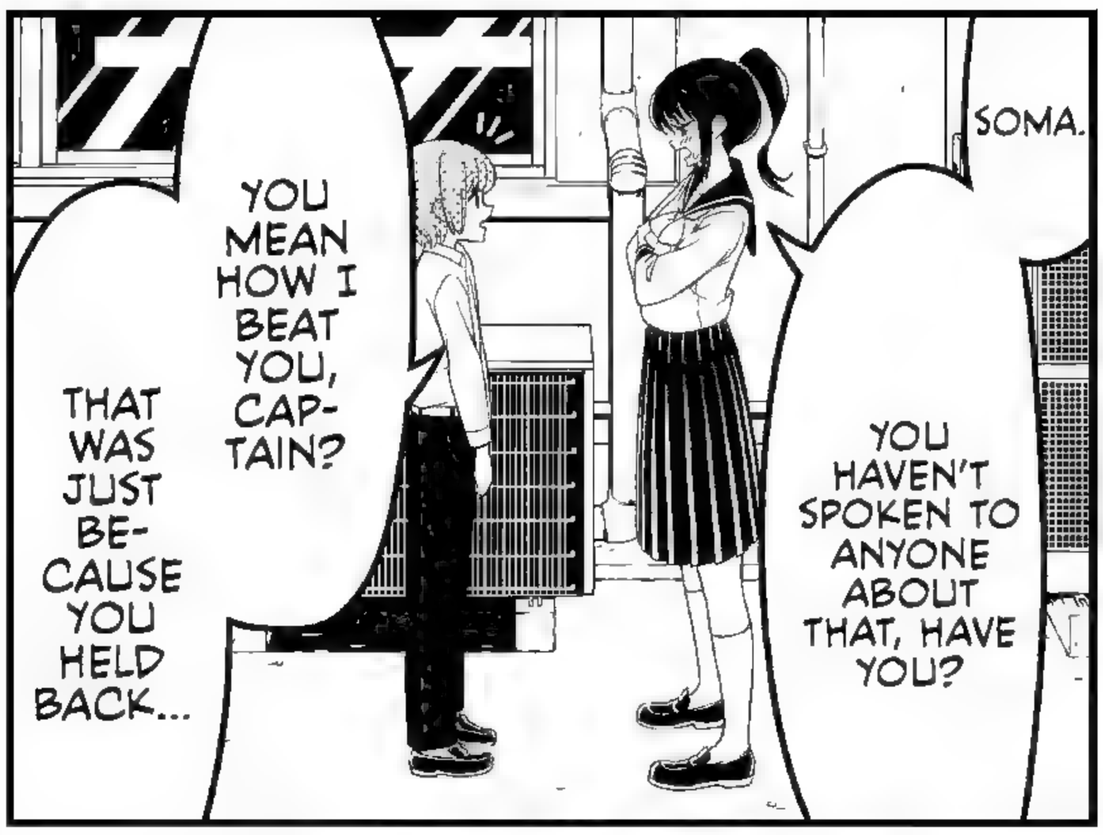
NAH, SHE'S NOT A FIRST-YEAR.

!

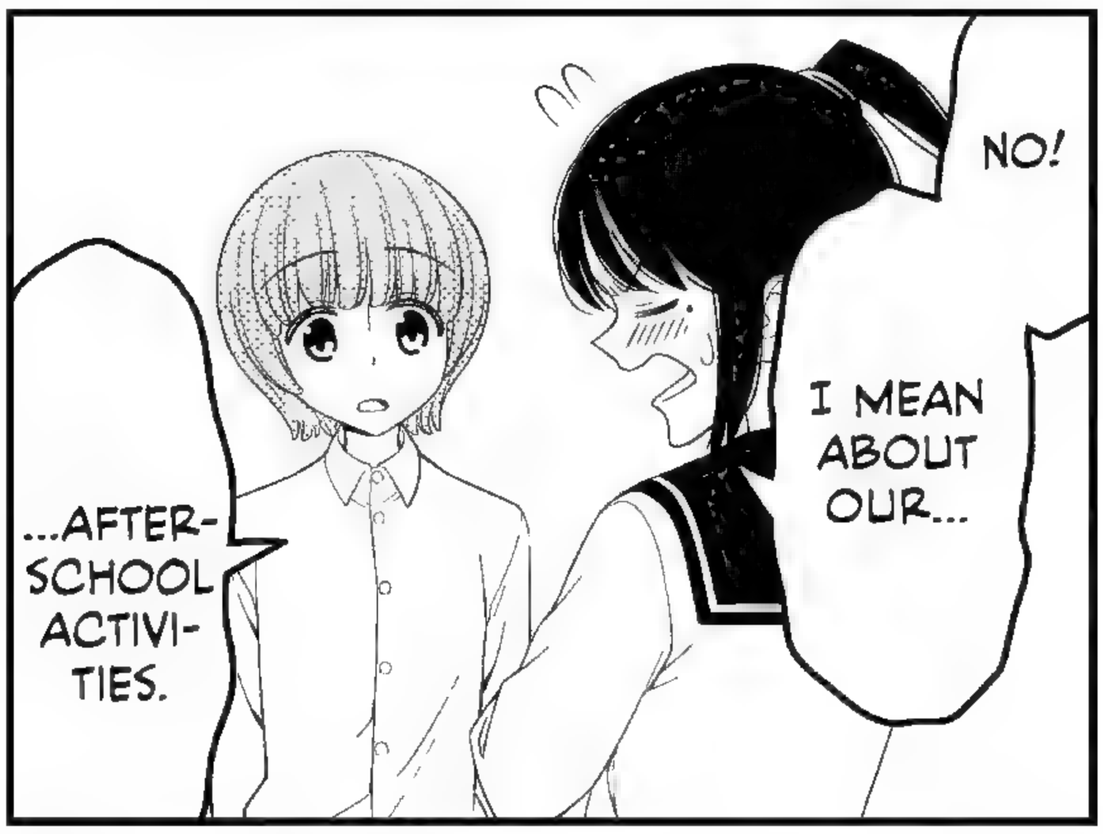
*UBU: WET BEHIND THE EARS / INEXPERIENCED

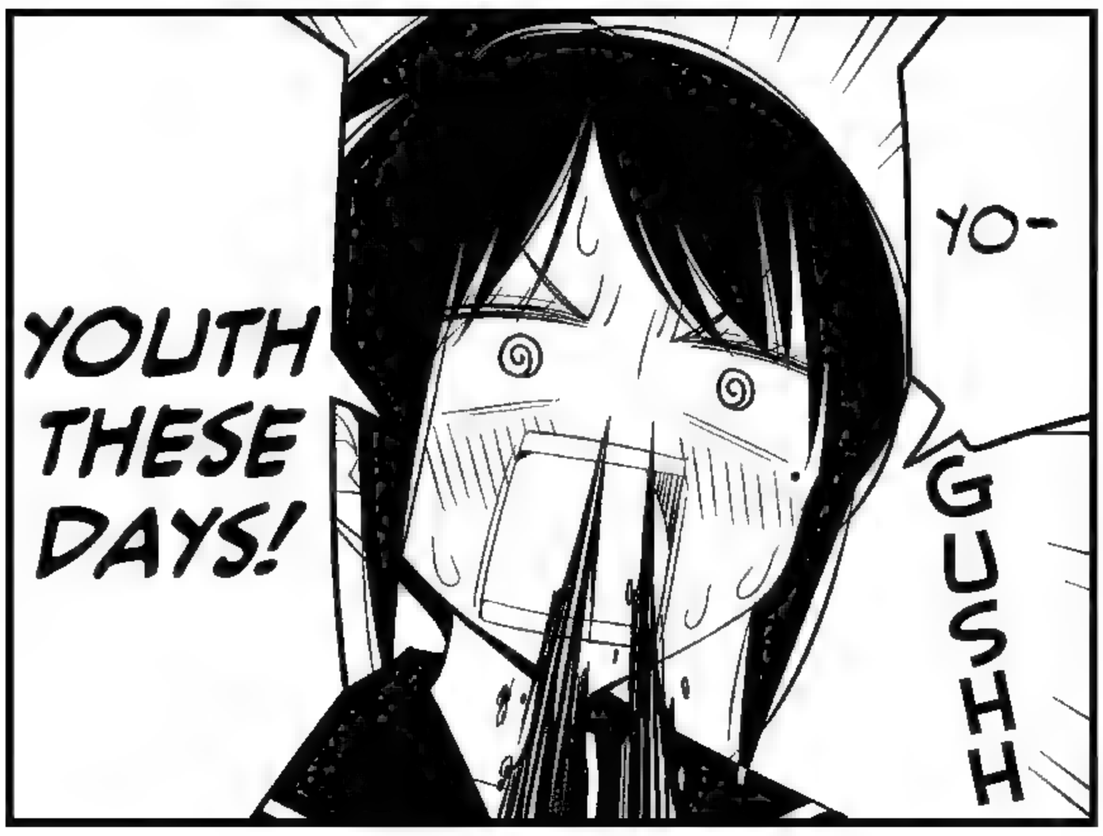
EXTRA





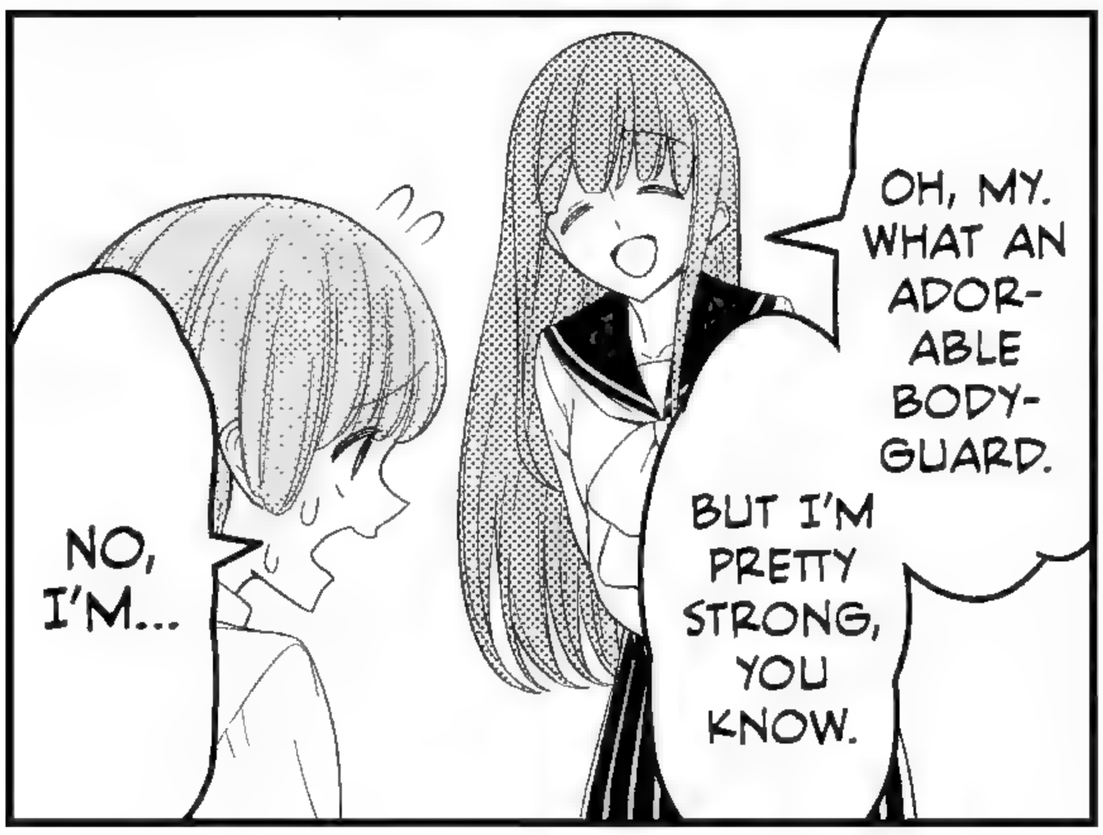
*JAPANESE CHESS.

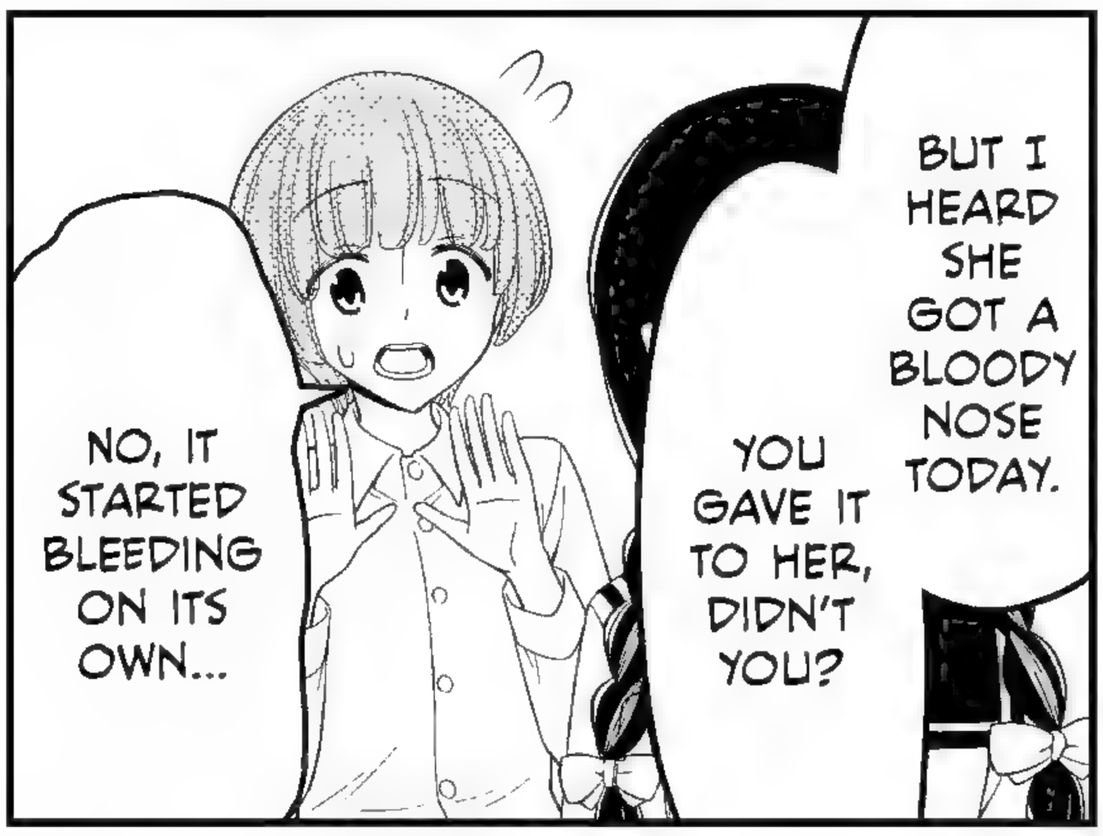




GO ON, SOMA-KUN!
KNOCK HER OUT!
WHAT?! NO WAY!

SOMA-KUN,
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU DEFEAT-ED THE KARATE CLUB CAPTAIN?
I WAS JUST LUCKY.


OH, MY. WHAT AN ADOR-ABLE BODY-GUARD.
BUT I'M PRETTY STRONG, YOU KNOW.
NO, I'M...

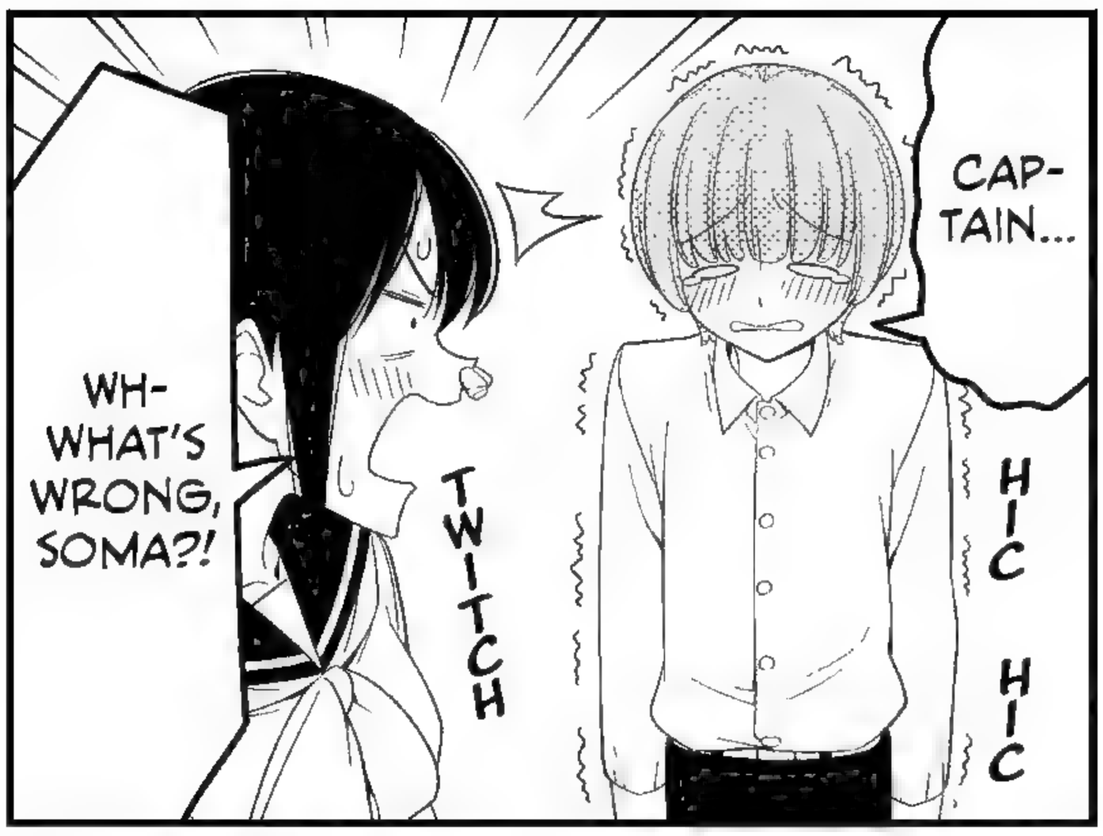

BUT I HEARD SHE GOT A BLOODY NOSE TODAY.
YOU GAVE IT TO HER, DIDN'T YOU?
NO, IT STARTED BLEEDING ON ITS OWN...

BOO!

THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO BEAT UP.
THAT'S NOT...

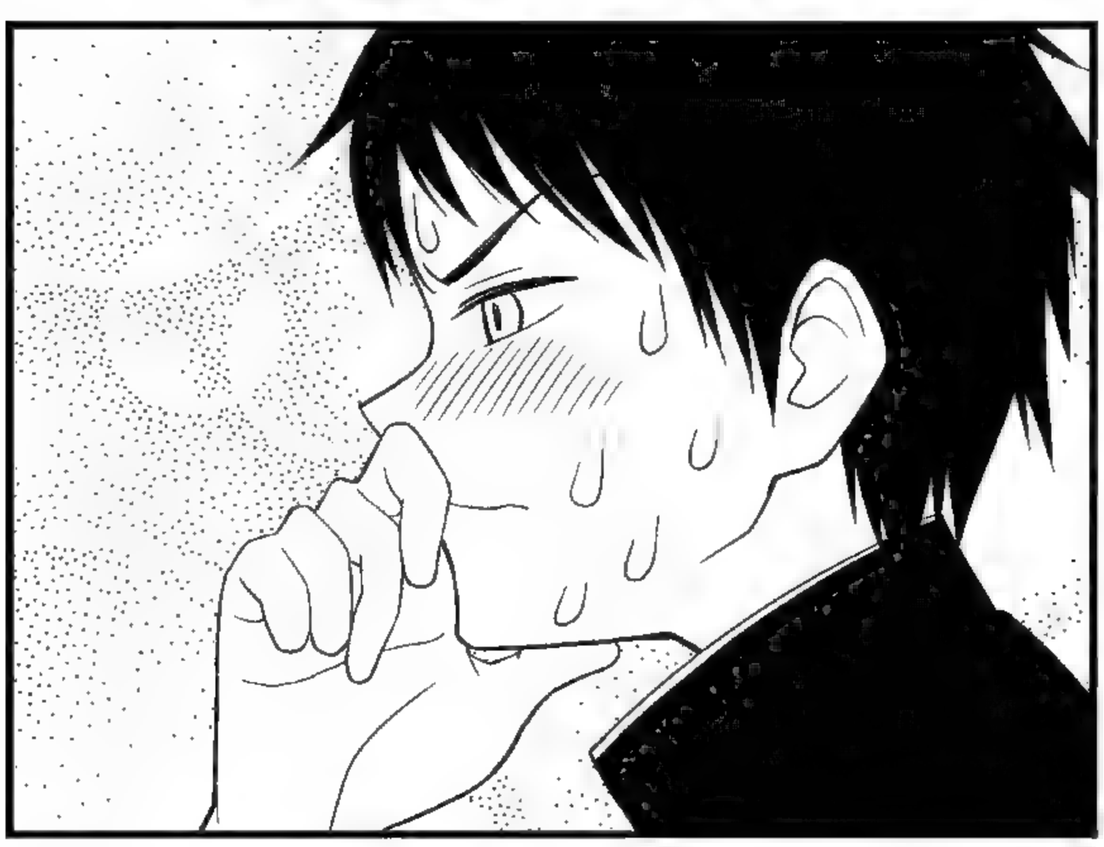
I DON'T CARE IF YOU KILL THEM.

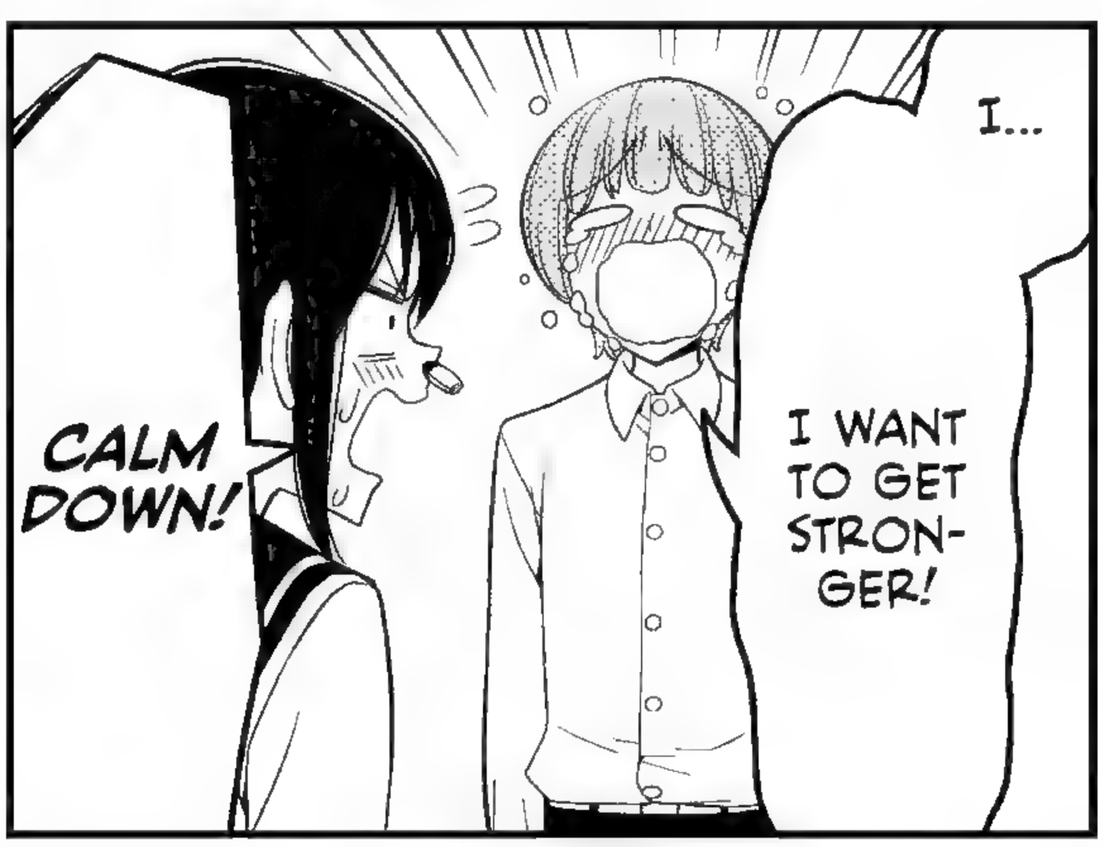
EVER SINCE THEN...
...I GET THE FEELING GODA-KUN HAS BEEN AVOIDING ME.


CAP-TAIN...
HIC
HIC
TWITCH
WH-WHAT'S WRONG, SOMA?!

I WONDER WHY.
!

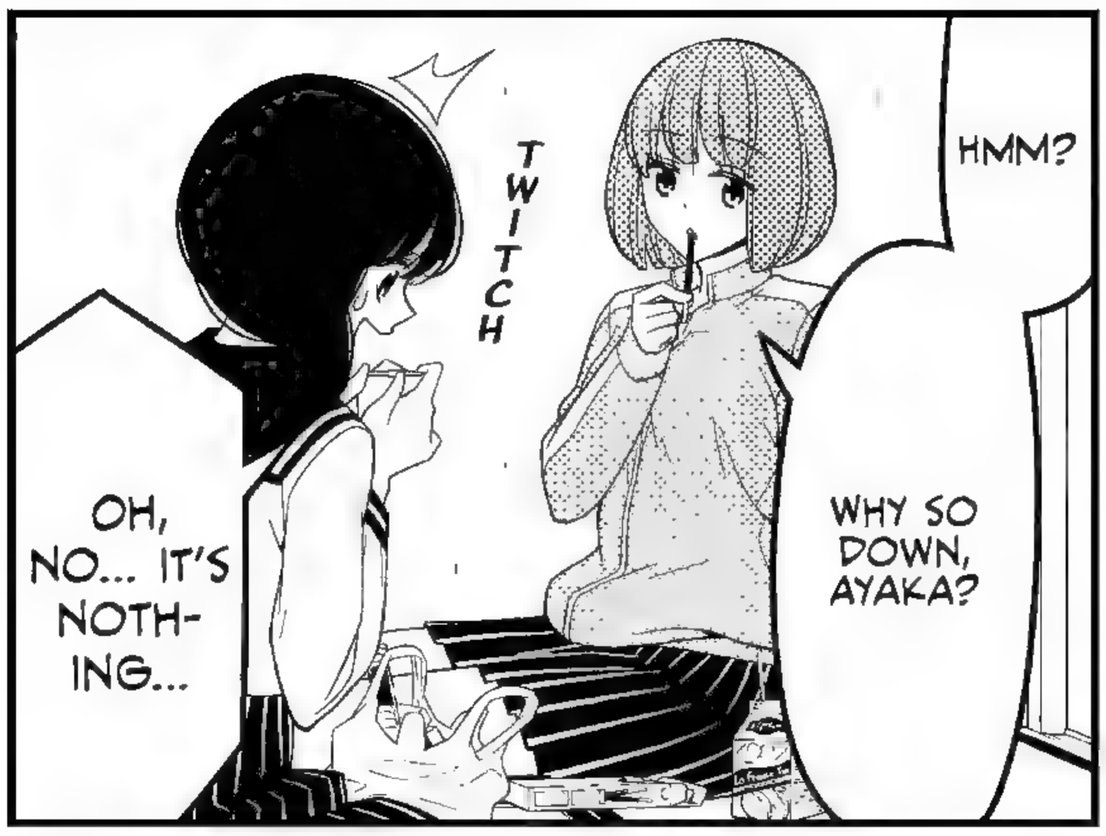
I SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO...
AGAINST SUCH A KIND-LOOKING PERSON, TOO...
PLUS, I LOST...
??
CALM DOWN, SOMA!

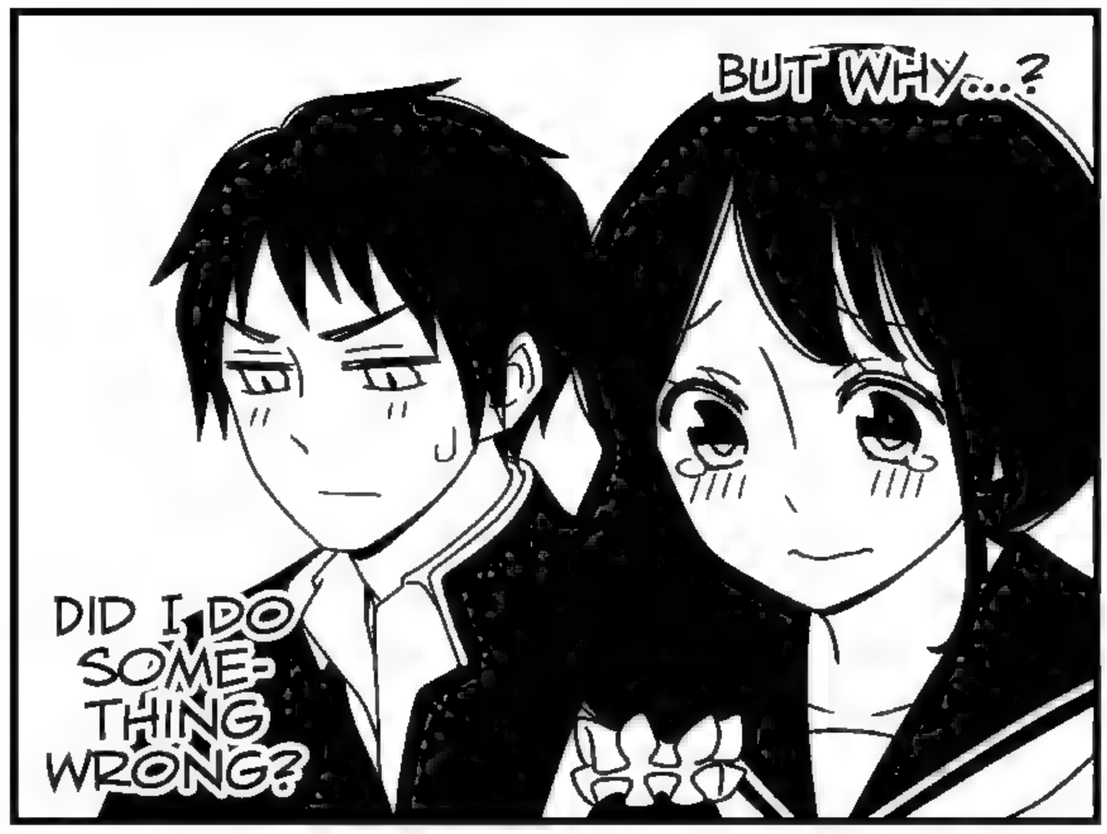


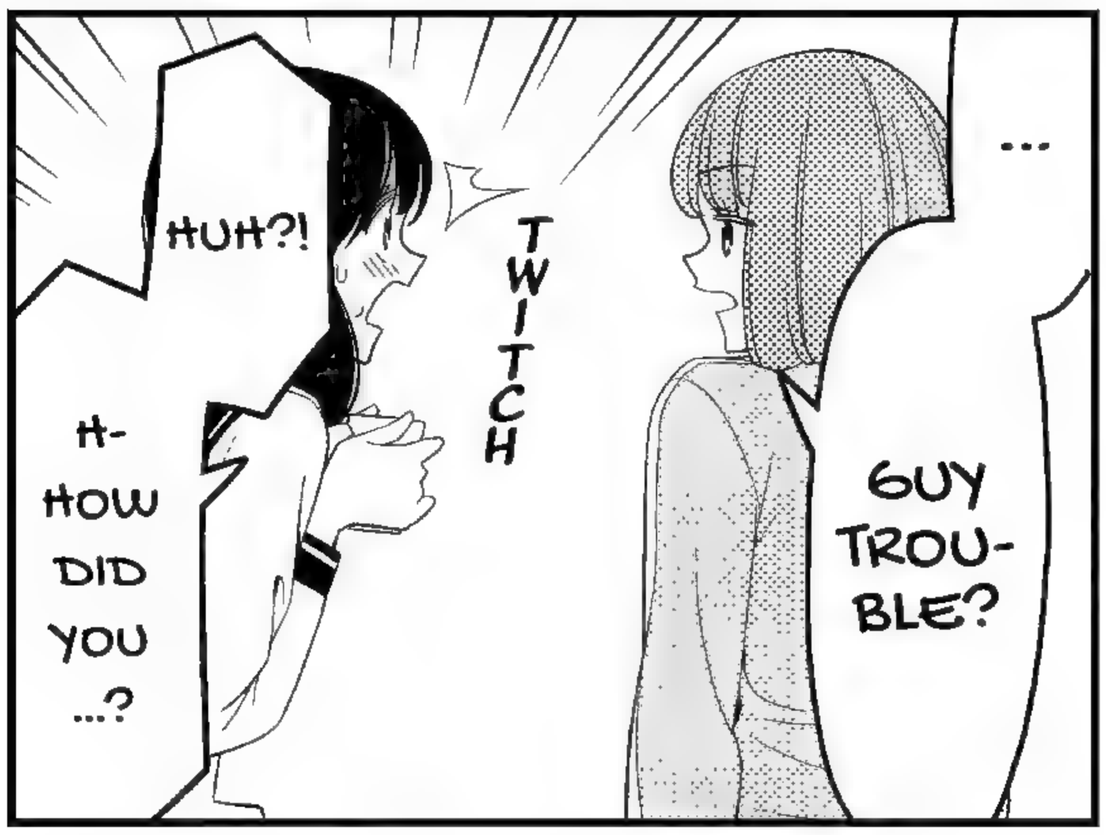

I...
I WANT TO GET STRON-GER!
CALM DOWN!

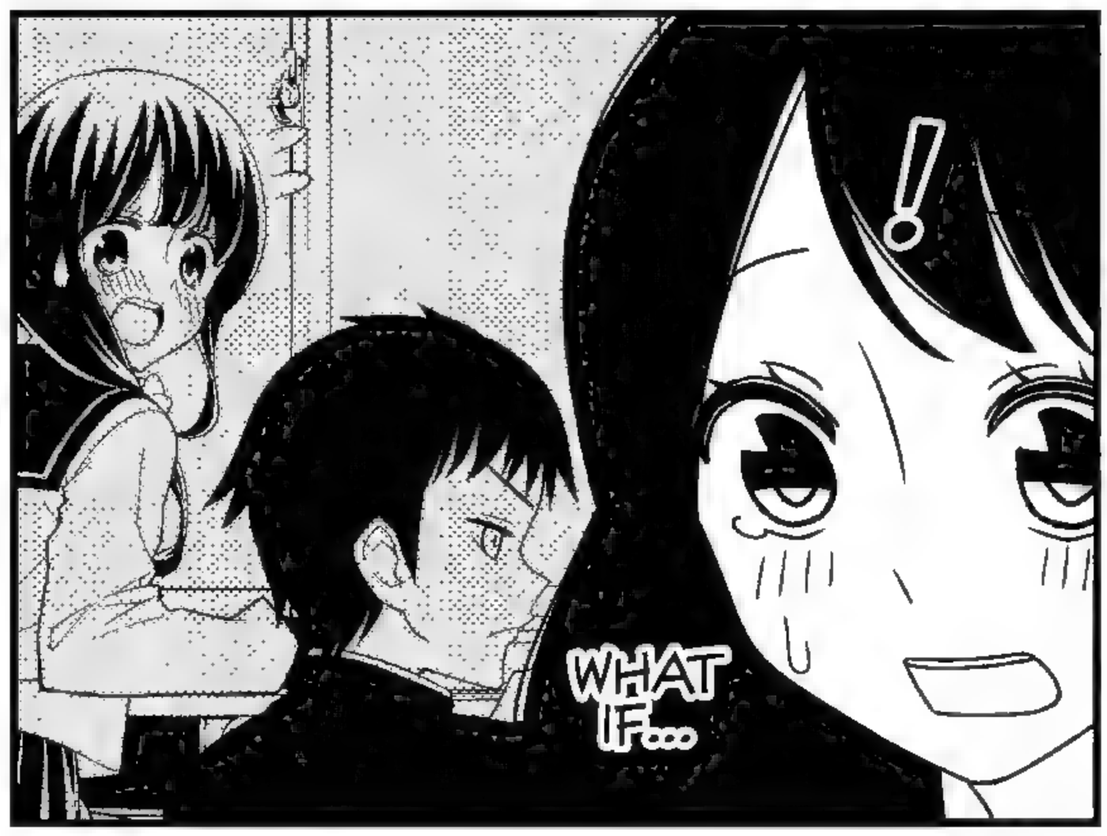
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T LIKE ME ANYMORE...?

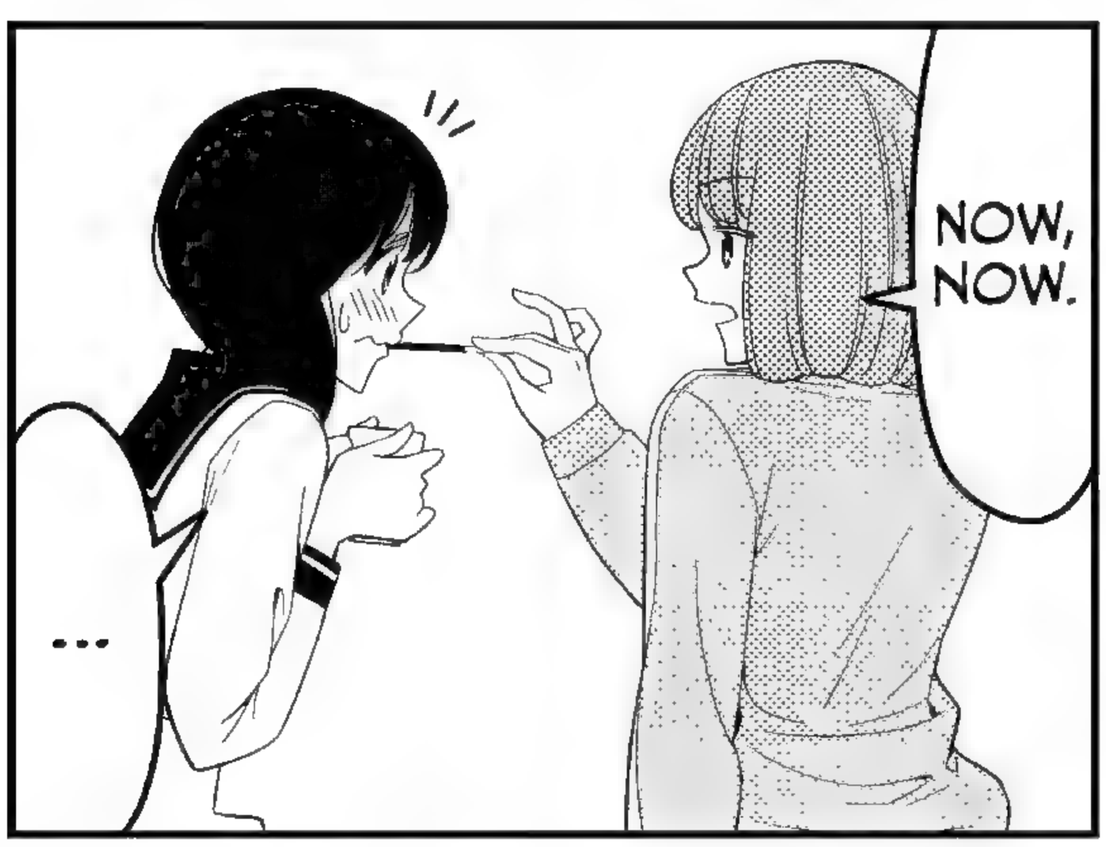
UWOOOH!
PSHHHHH
CALM DOO-OOO-OOO-OWN!

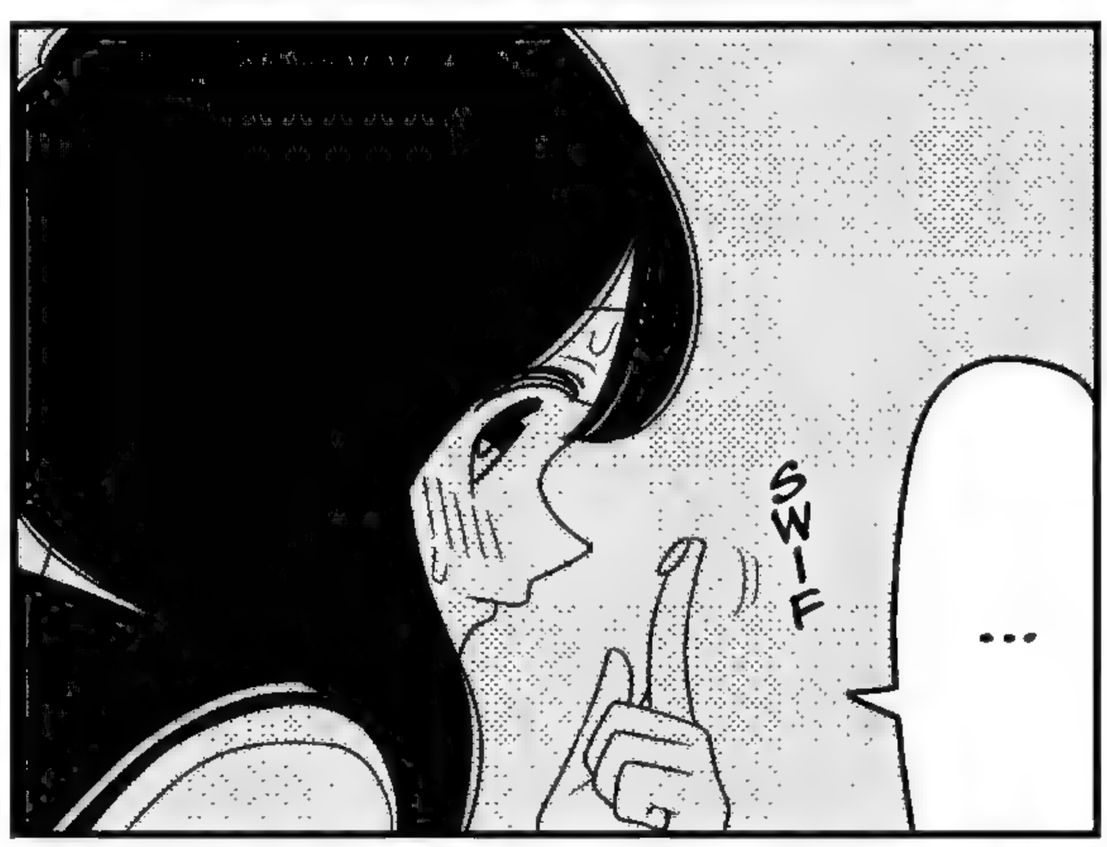

OH, NO... IT'S NOTH-ING...
TWITCH
HMM?
WHY SO DOWN, AYAKA?

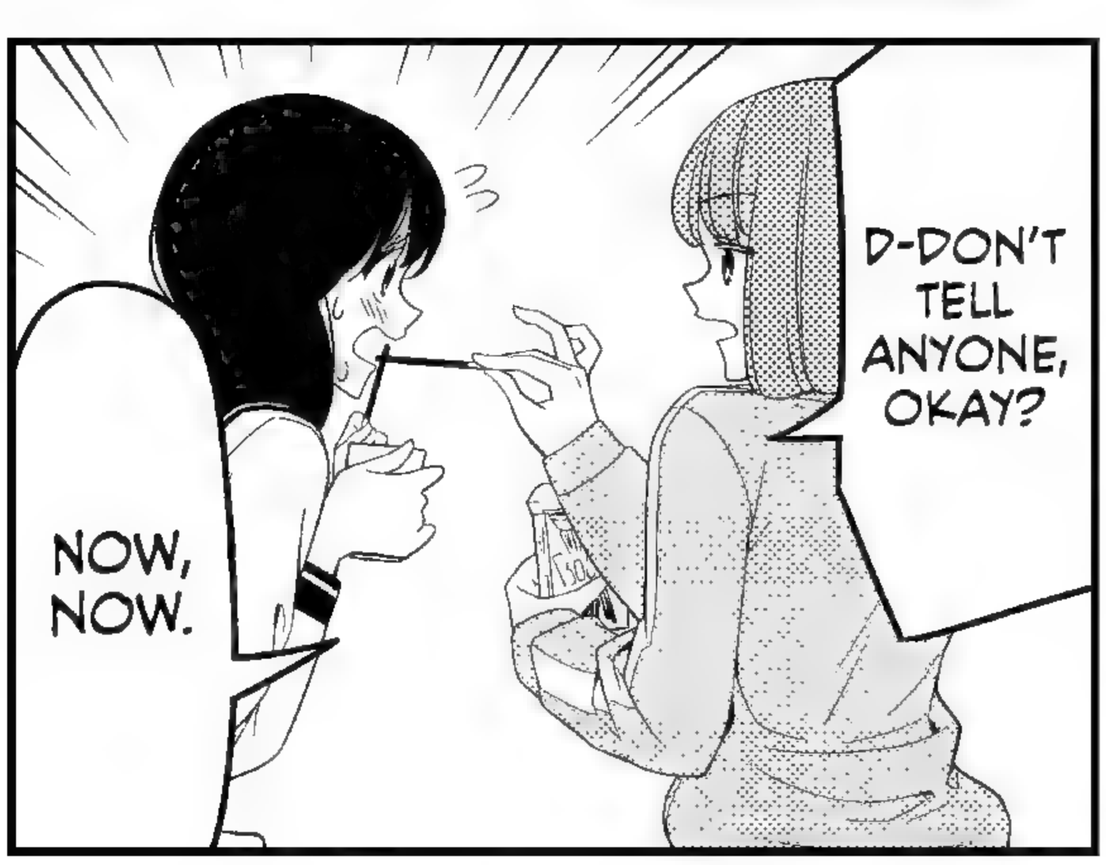

BUT WHY...?
DID I DO SOME-THING WRONG?


HUH?!
H-HOW DID YOU ...?
TWITCH
...
GUY TROU-BLE?


WHAT IF...


...
NOW, NOW.


SWIF
...


NOW, NOW.
D-DON'T TELL ANYONE, OKAY?

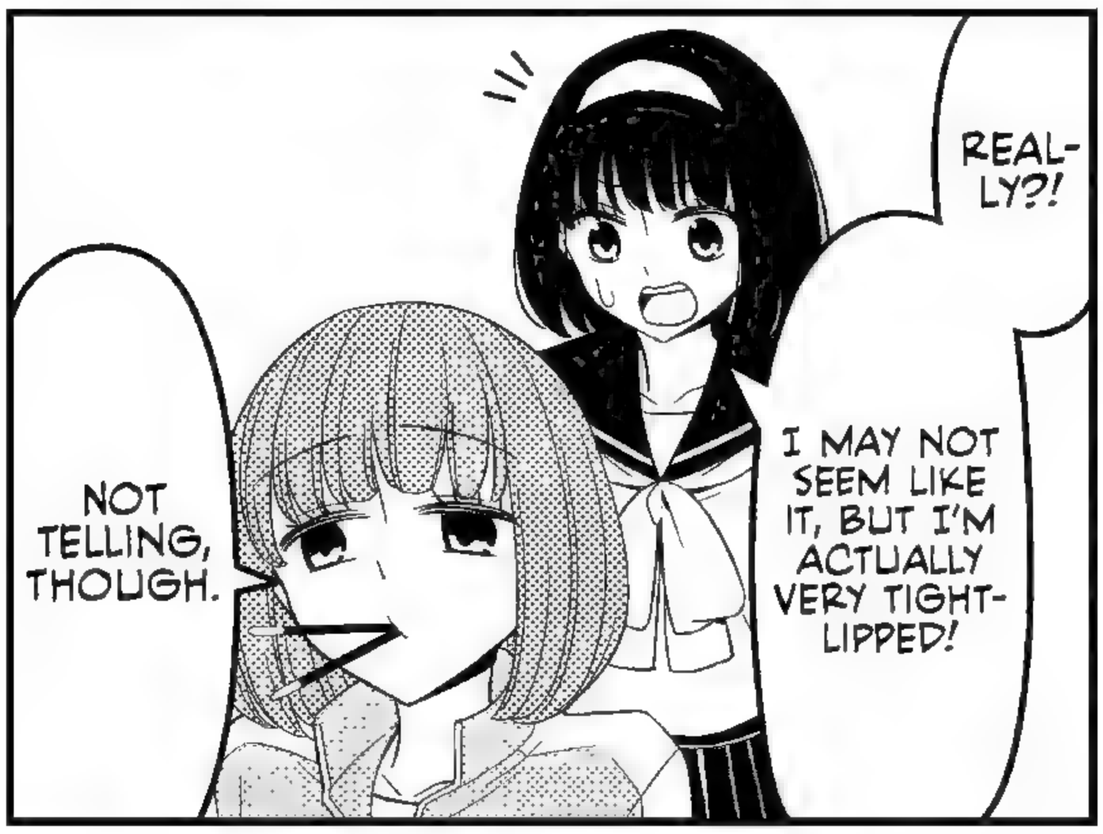
WHAT IF HE FOUND OUT...
...I DROPPED MY CONTACT ON PURPOSE?!

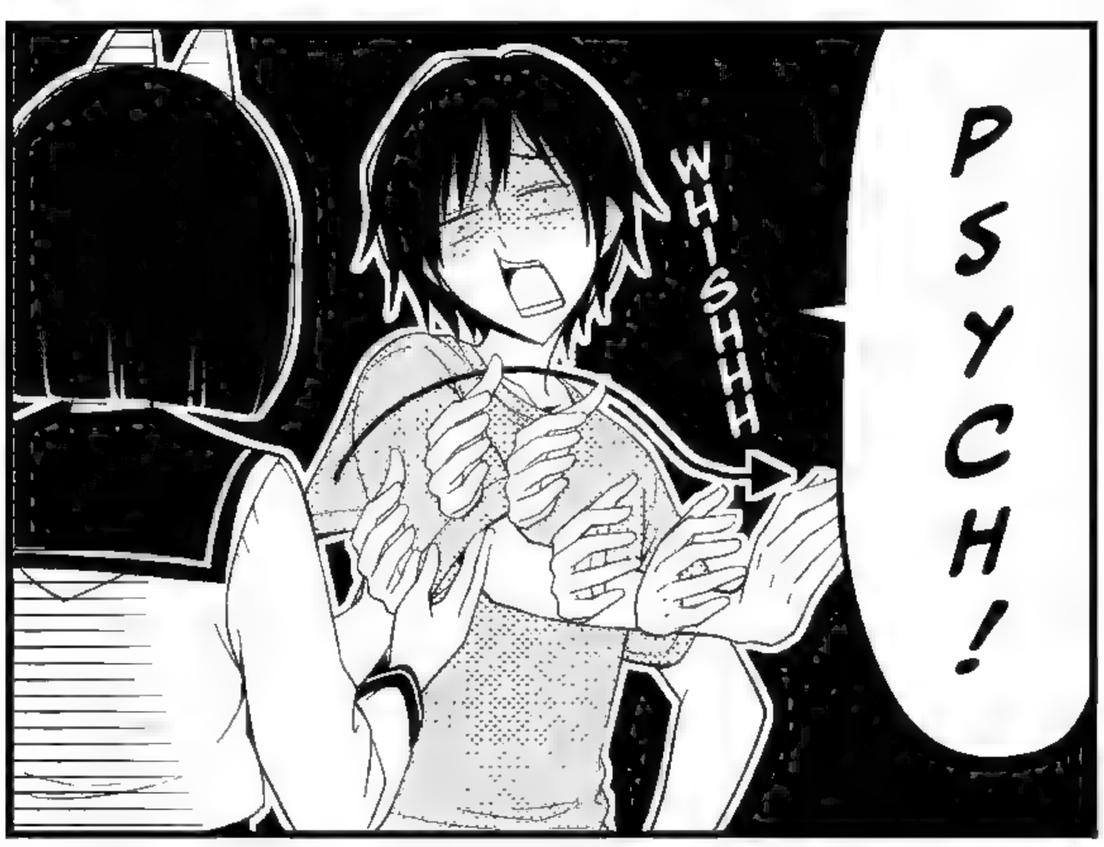
EXTRA

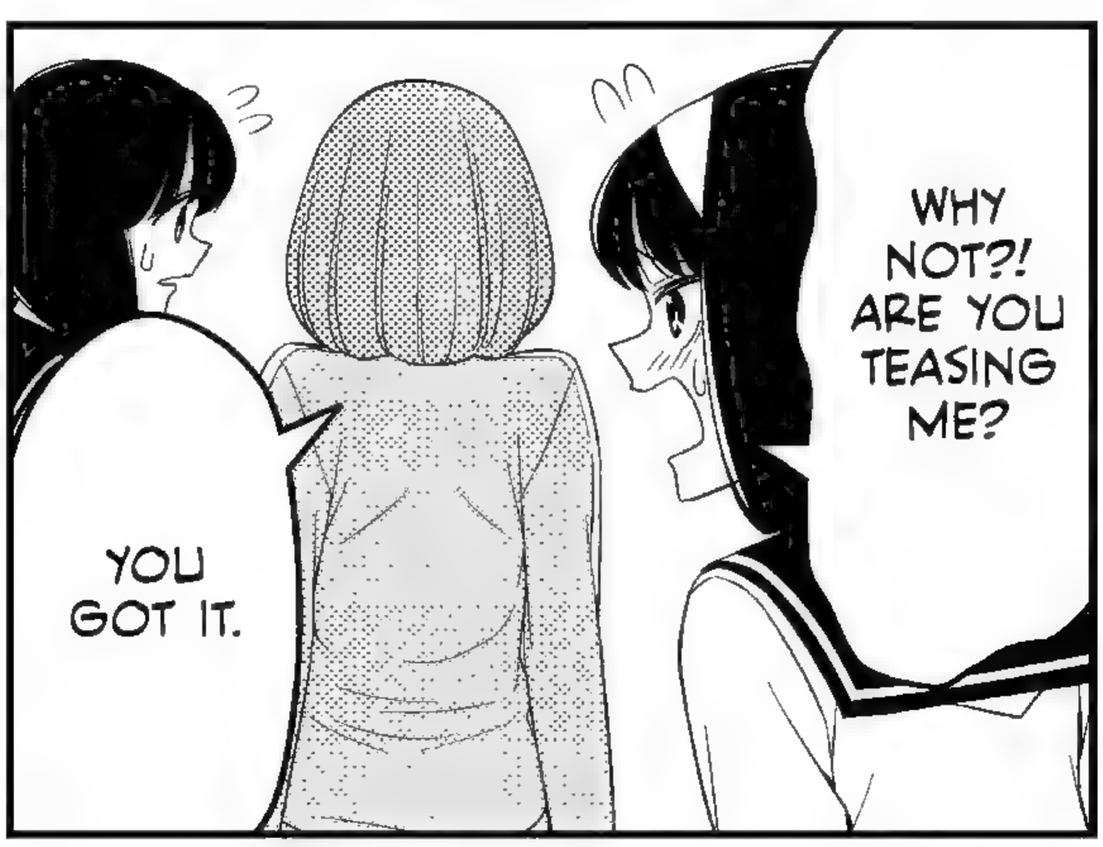
I KNEW IT. THIS IS WHERE I BELONG.
LIKE HELL IT IS.
Marshall

OH! HI, AYAKA-SAN.
UMM, WELL...
WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S A SECRET.

NOW, NOW. WE'RE BAND-MATES, AFTER ALL.
LET'S GET ALONG, SHALL WE?
...I GUESS SO.


REAL-LY?!
I MAY NOT SEEM LIKE IT, BUT I'M ACTUALLY VERY TIGHT-LIPPED!
NOT TELLING, THOUGH.


PSYCH!
WHISHHH


WHY NOT?! ARE YOU TEASING ME?
YOU GOT IT.

FUCK!
SEE?
WHAT AM I LOOK-ING AT, EXACT-LY?

GRRRR!
THERE, THERE.
THEY MUST BE GOOD FRIENDS.

HEY...

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT HER LITTLE YOU KNOW WHAT?

WELL, YEAH.

IT WAS PRETTY OBVI-OUS.

SHEESH.

A REAL HEADACHE JOINED.

WHAT'S SHE THINK-ING?

LIKE HELL SHE CAN HIDE HER IDENTITY WITH A MASK LIKE THAT.

WELL, I'LL ADMIT SHE'S A BIT OF A SPACE CASE.

OH, IF IT ISN'T UBU.

HUH?

YEAH.

GOIN' HOME?

BUT I GUESS ...

AS ONE FINAL MEMORY IN HIGH SCHOOL...

...SHE JUST WANTED TO PLAY IN A BAND, RIGHT?

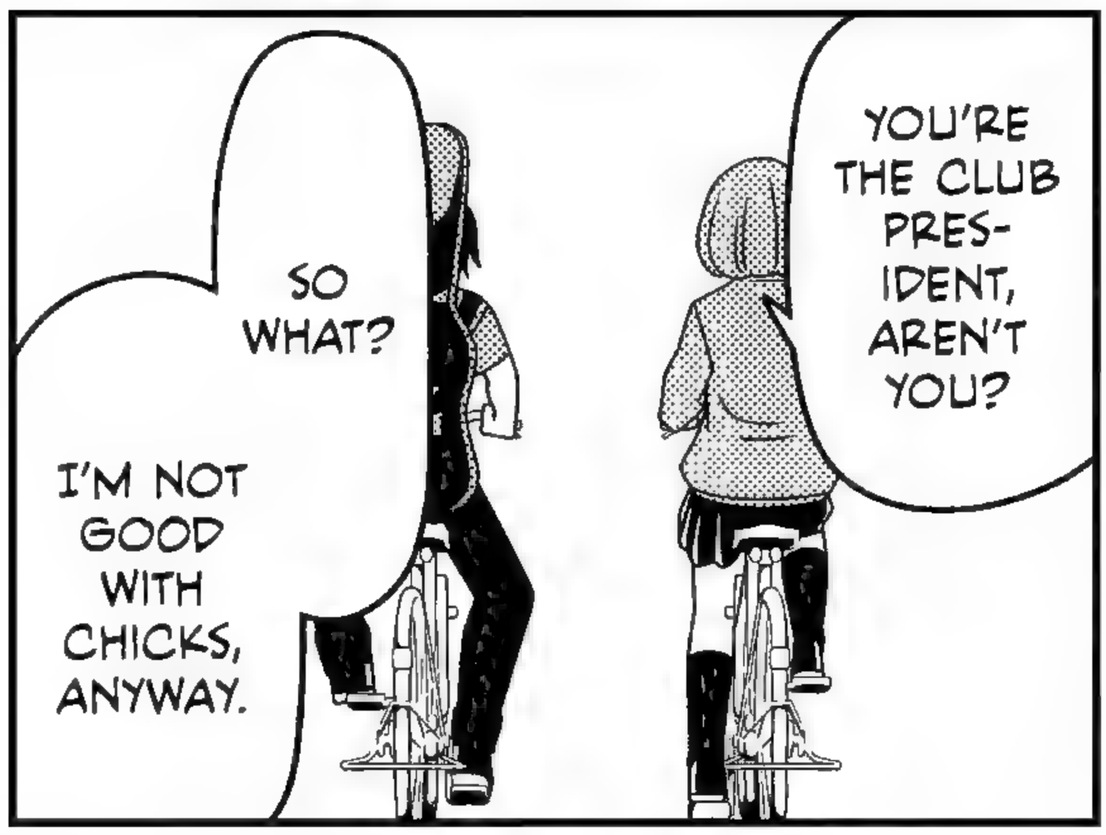
NOT GOING HOME WITH ERIKA?

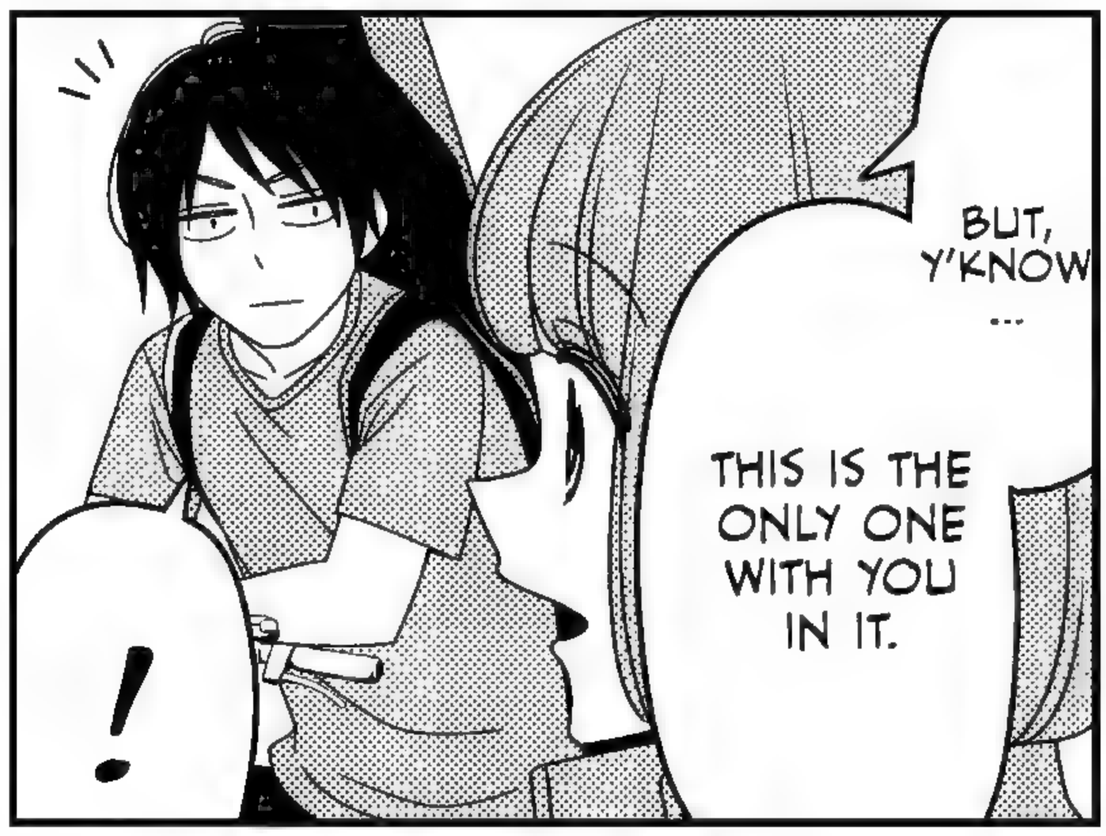
SCREECH

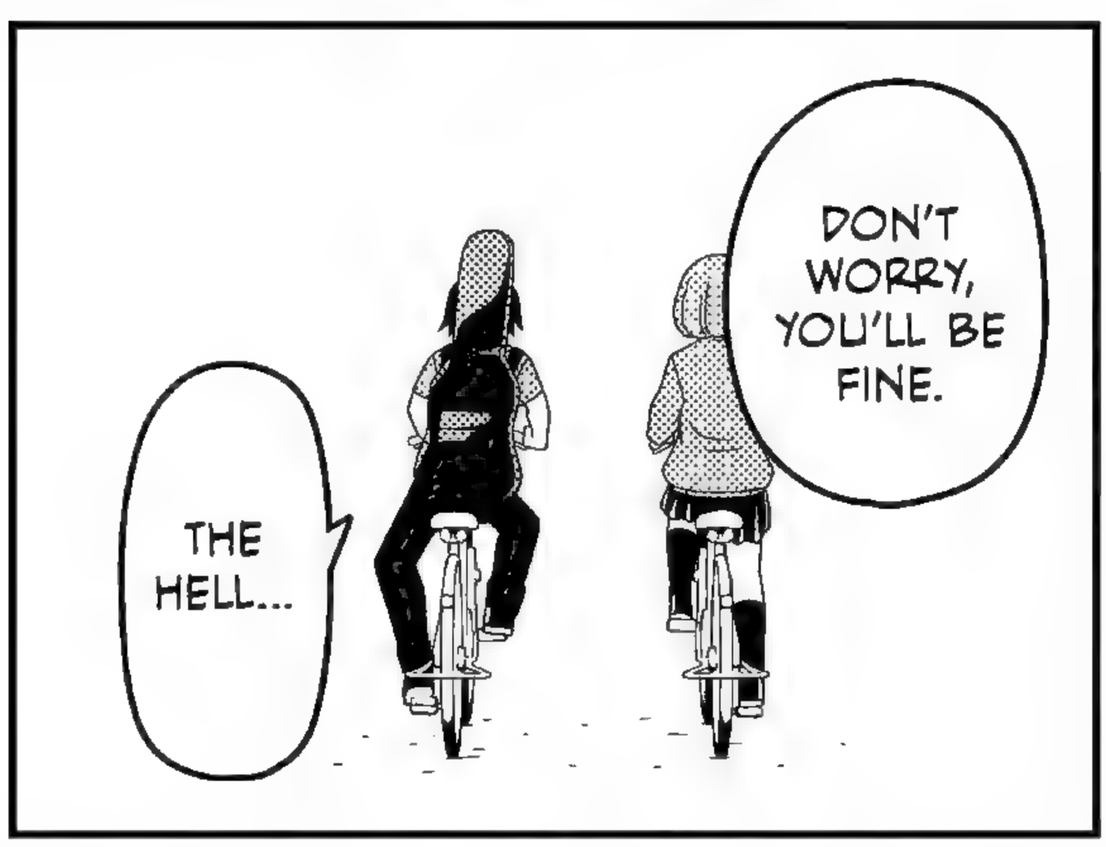
...

WELL,
LOOK AFTER ERIKA FOR ME, WILL YOU?
HUH? WHY SHOULD I?

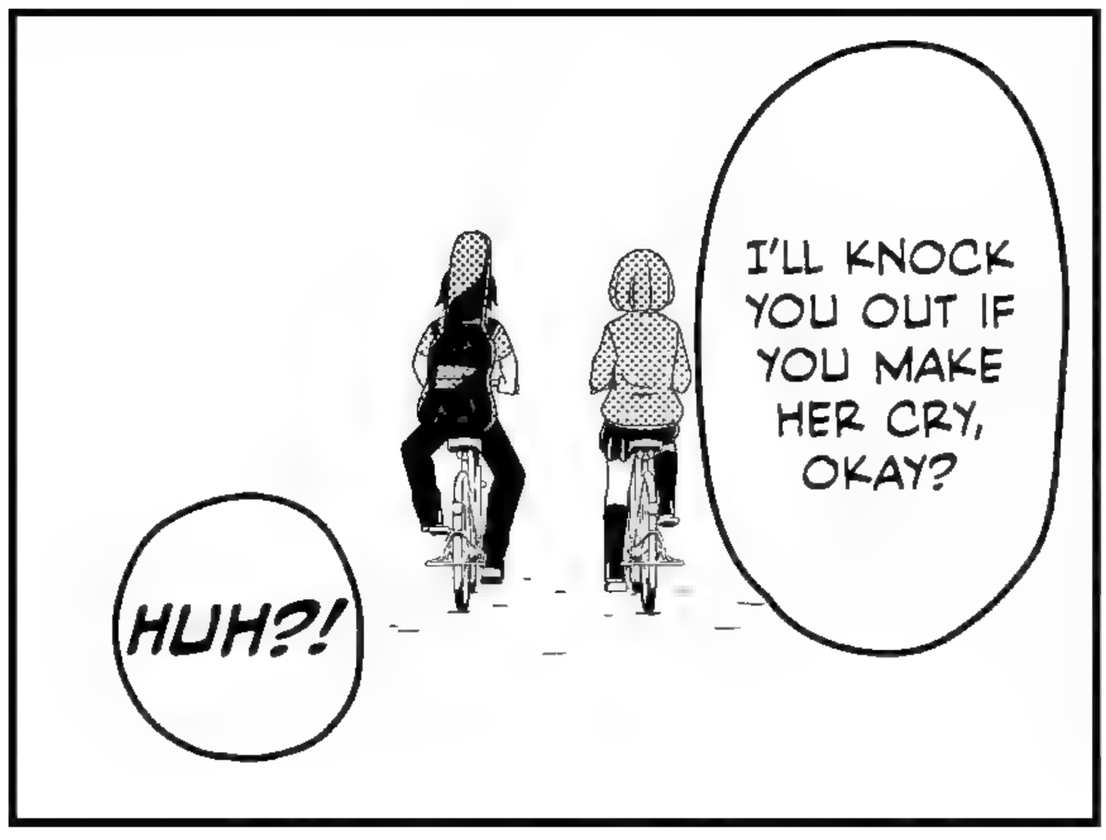
OUR SCHOOL HAS PLENTY OF OTHER BANDS!
THAT'S TRUE...


YOU'RE THE CLUB PRES-IDENT, AREN'T YOU?
SO WHAT?
I'M NOT GOOD WITH CHICKS, ANYWAY.


BUT, Y'KNOW ...
THIS IS THE ONLY ONE WITH YOU IN IT.
!


DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE FINE.
THE HELL...

YEAH, I GUESS.
I AM THE BEST, AFTER ALL.


I'LL KNOCK YOU OUT IF YOU MAKE HER CRY, OKAY?
HUH?!

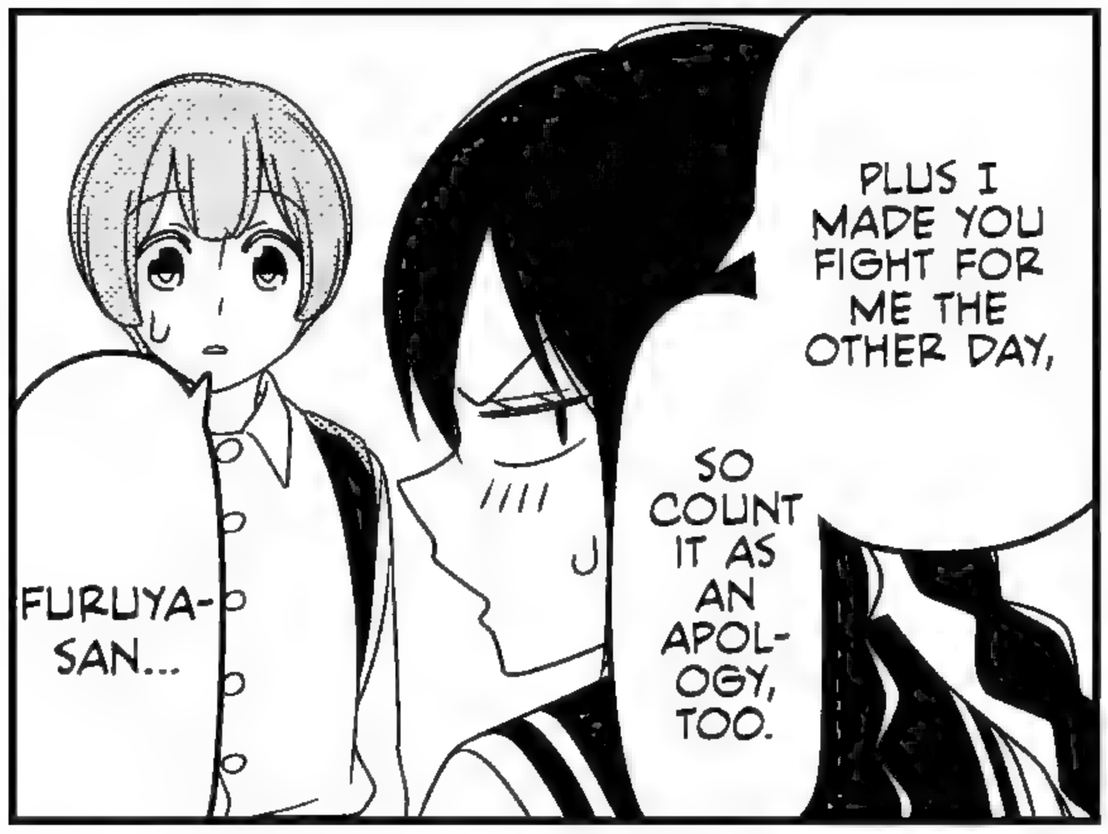
MMM...

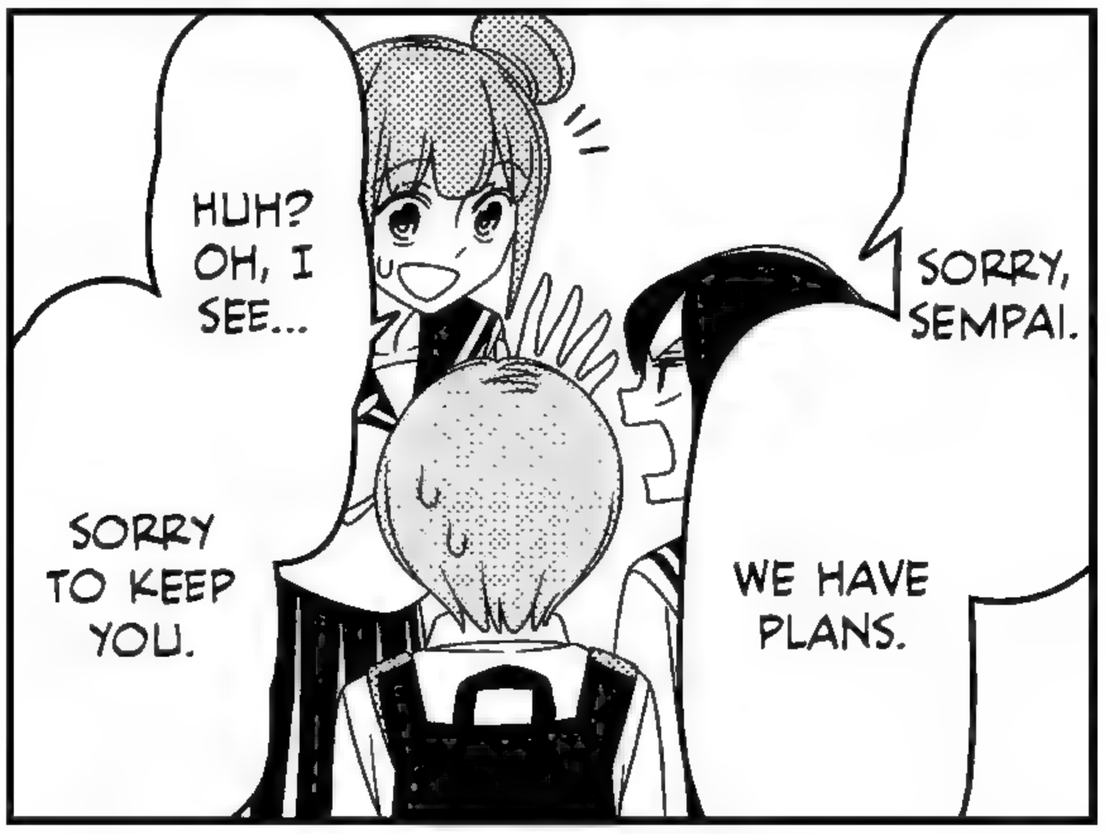
HUH? NO, I...
EVERYONE SAYS THAT AT FIRST.
N-NOT REALLY ...
ARE YOU INTER-ESTED IN THE STARS?
I HAVE TO SHAPE UP IN HIGH SCHOOL!
BECAUSE OF MY FRAIL PERSON-ALITY...
...I WAS ALWAYS PICKED ON IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
UMM. I...!
I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET LED AROUND!
I HAVE TO REFUSE CLEARLY!
HUH?! NO, I-
I'M JOIN-ING THE KARATE CLUB!
HEY, YOU!
ARE YOU INTER-ESTED IN JOINING THE AS-TRONOMY CLUB?
...THE CLUB WILL HAVE TO DISBAND.
SNIFF
SURE YOU WON'T JOIN IF I DON'T GET ONE MORE MEM-BER...?
...
ALL RIGHT!
OH! REALLY?
HMM. THAT'S UNEX-PECTED.
URG
HUH?
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN BOTH?

EXTRA

HUH?!
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE IN A TIGHT SPOT,
SO I THOUGHT I'D BUST YOU OUT!

HUH?! FURUYA-SAN?!
SOMA-KUN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET'S GO!

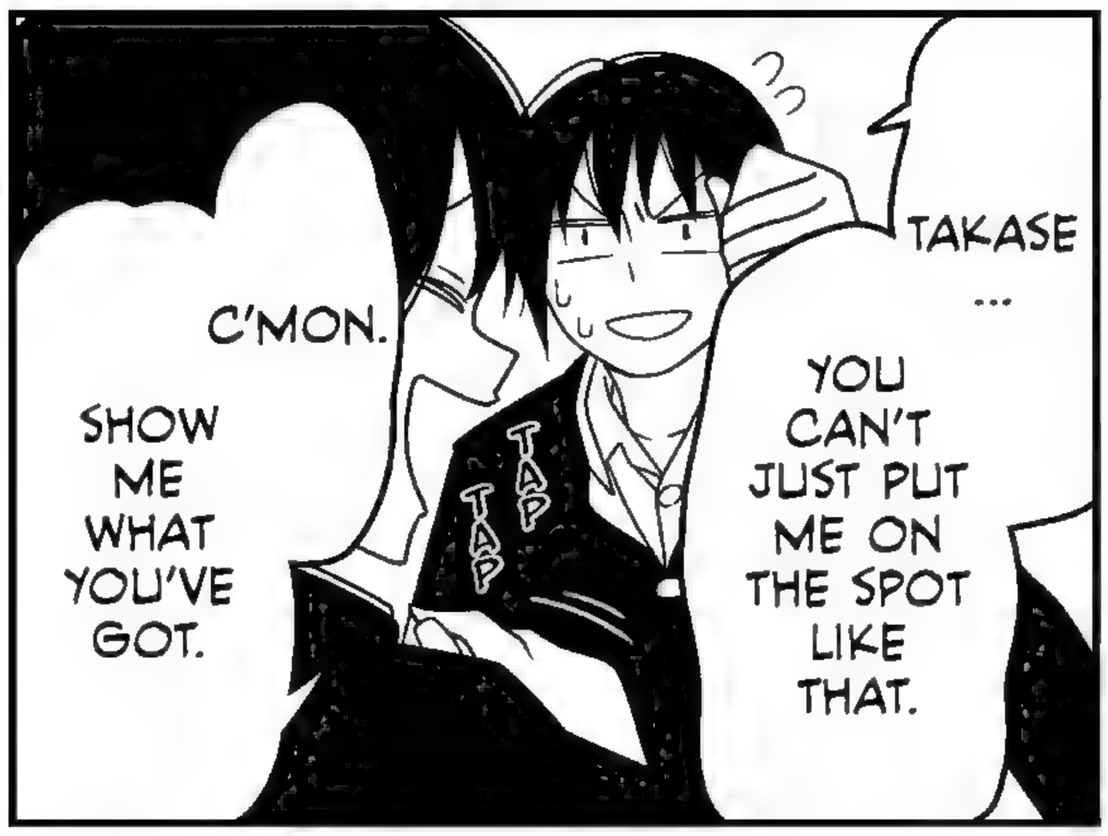

FURUYA-SAN...
PLUS I MADE YOU FIGHT FOR ME THE OTHER DAY,
SO COUNT IT AS AN APOL-OGY, TOO.


HUH? OH, I SEE...
SORRY TO KEEP YOU.
SORRY, SEMPAI.
WE HAVE PLANS.

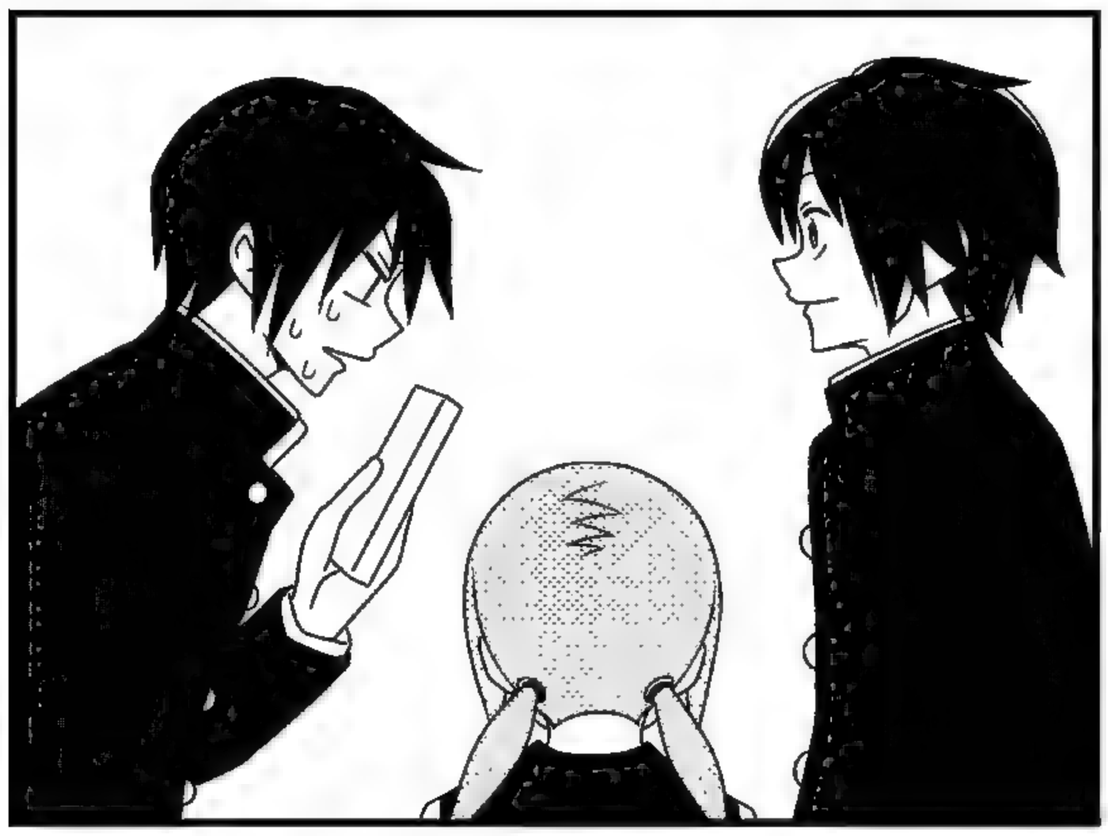
I THOUGHT FURUYA-SAN WAS KIND OF SCARY...
...BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY NOT SUCH A BAD PERSON.

WHA?
YOU'LL JOIN, RIGHT?
BUT KA-RATE...
MY BROTH-ER SAYS THEY'RE LOW ON MEMBERS.
NO, I...
BY THE WAY, ARE YOU INTER-ESTED IN JOINING THE BROAD-CAST CLUB?

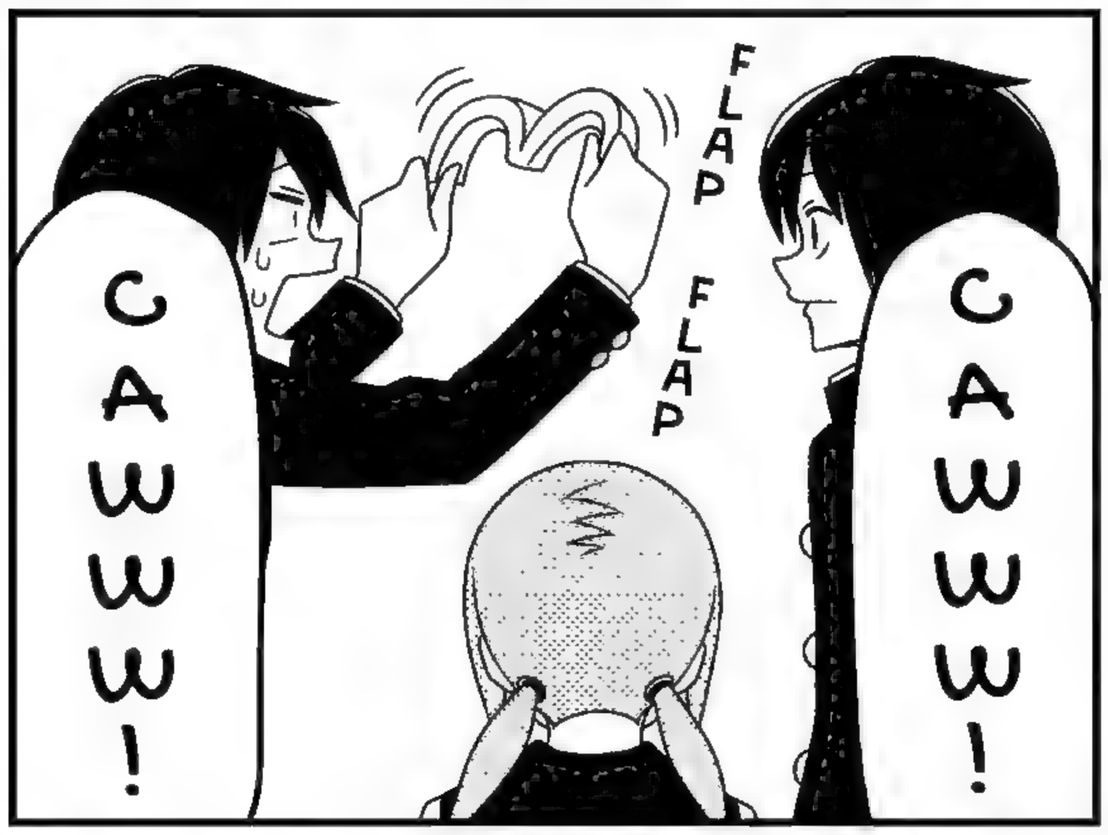
THAT WAS JUST AN EX-CUSE!
HUH?!
UMM.
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY PLANS?


TAKASE ...
YOU CAN'T JUST PUT ME ON THE SPOT LIKE THAT.
C'MON.
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
TAP TAP

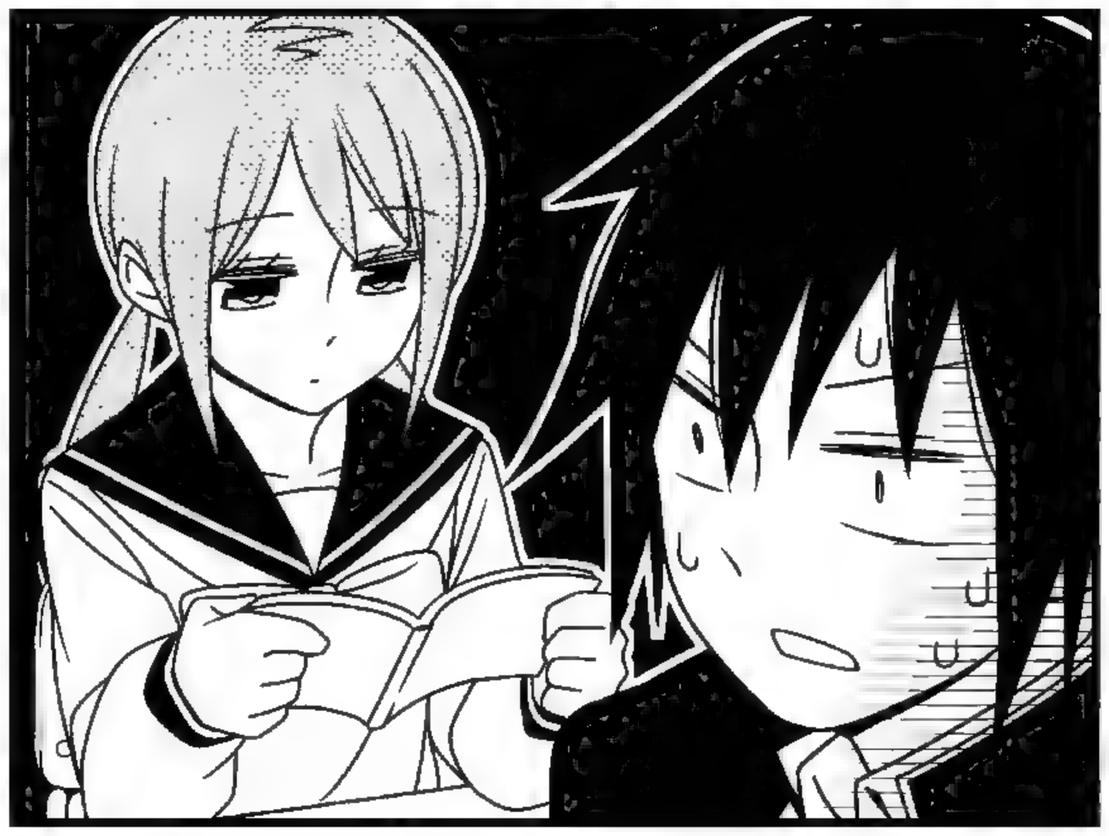
HEEEY, SUGA-YAN!
GIMME BACK MY GEOGRAPHY TEXTBOOK, WILL YA?
AH!



YOU ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU?
MY BAD!
TOTALLY SLIPPED MY MIND!


CAWWW!
FLAP FLAP
CAWWW!

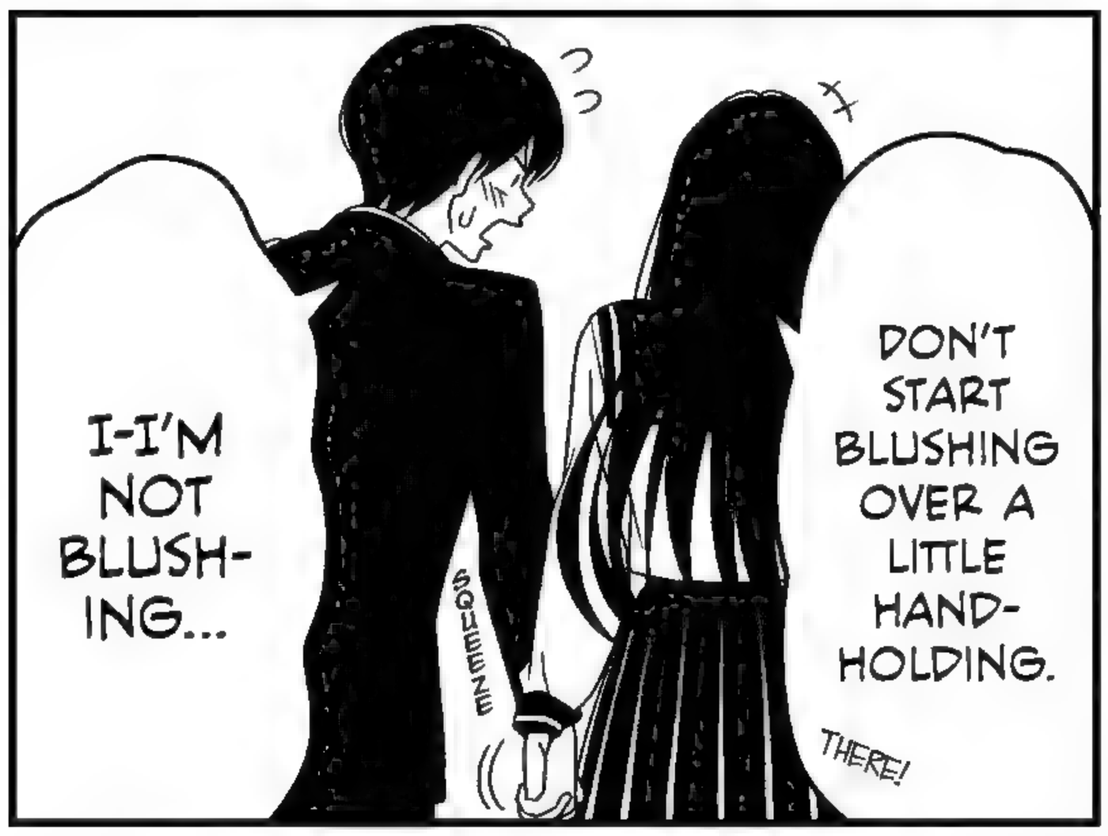
THEN TO MAKE UP FOR IT...
...TELL ME A ONE-LINER USING THAT BOOK.
AAAND, GO!



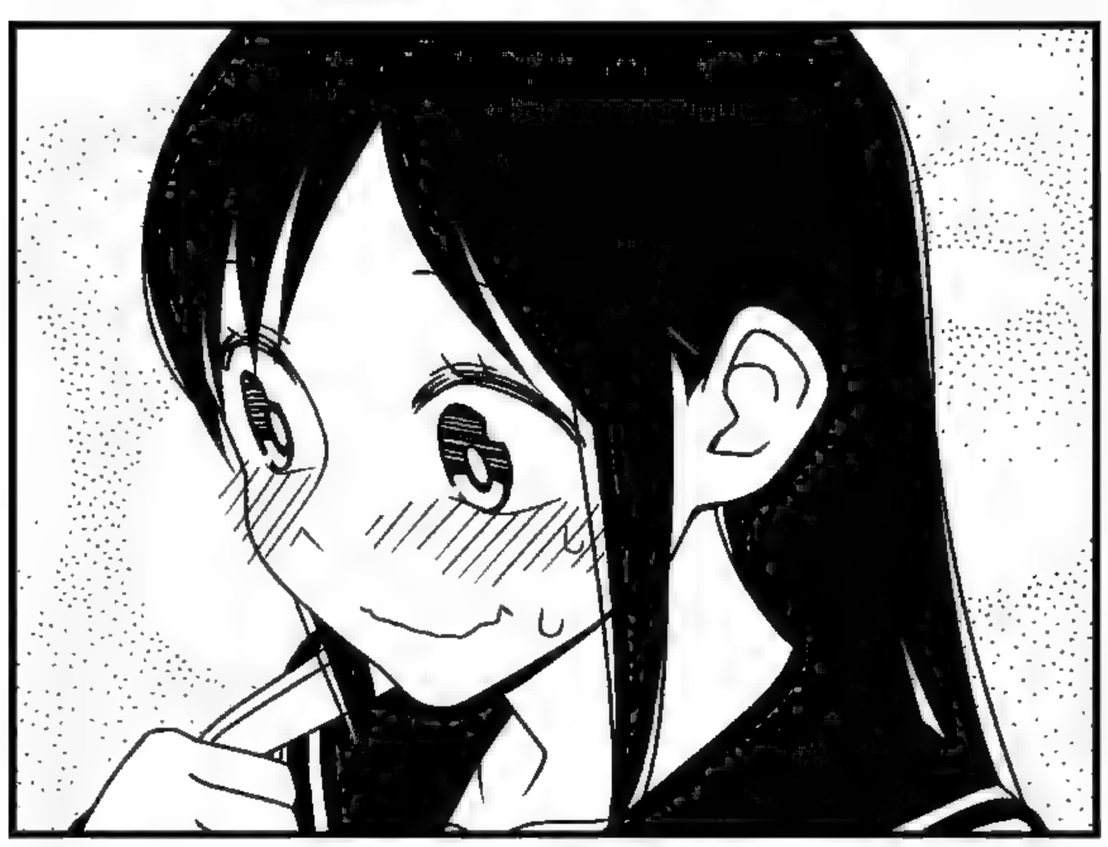
EXTRA

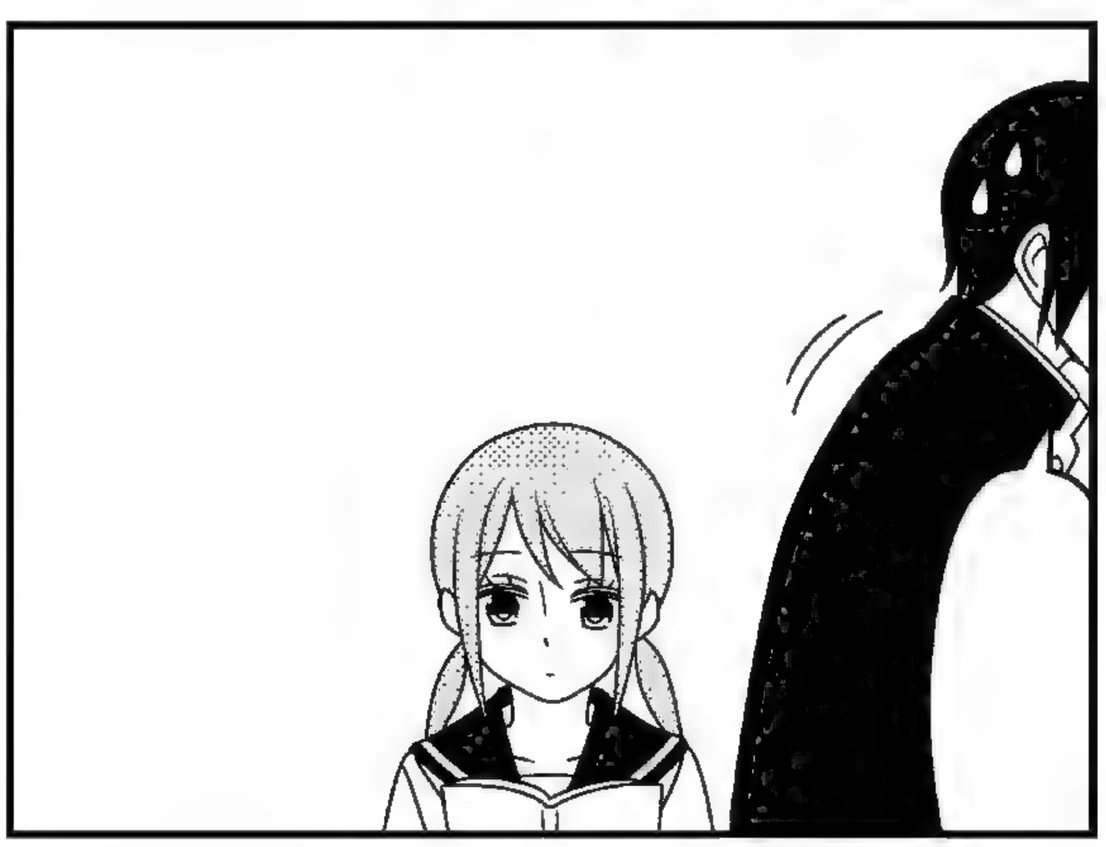
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU EMBAR-RASSED FOR?
KANA AND I STILL HAVEN'T HELD HANDS...
...SINCE WE ACTUALLY STARTED DATING.

HUH?
A'IGHT, I GOTTA RUN.
BOOK, PLEASE.
UHH...
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A CROW, AND...


I-I'M NOT BLUSH-ING...
ENTWINED
DON'T START BLUSHING OVER A LITTLE HAND-HOLDING.
THERE!

LATER!





YOU ARE, TOO!
YOU'RE TOTALLY BLUSHING!

PFF

Afterword

To first-time readers, it's nice to meet you. To long-time readers, greetings. Author Toshiya Wakabayashi here. Thank you very much for picking up *Tsurezure Children* volume one.

This manga started out as a piece published online as an ad to promote a series I was drawing during a time when I was even less known than I am now. However, things didn't work out as planned, and my serialization was canned, leaving only *Tsurezure Children* behind.

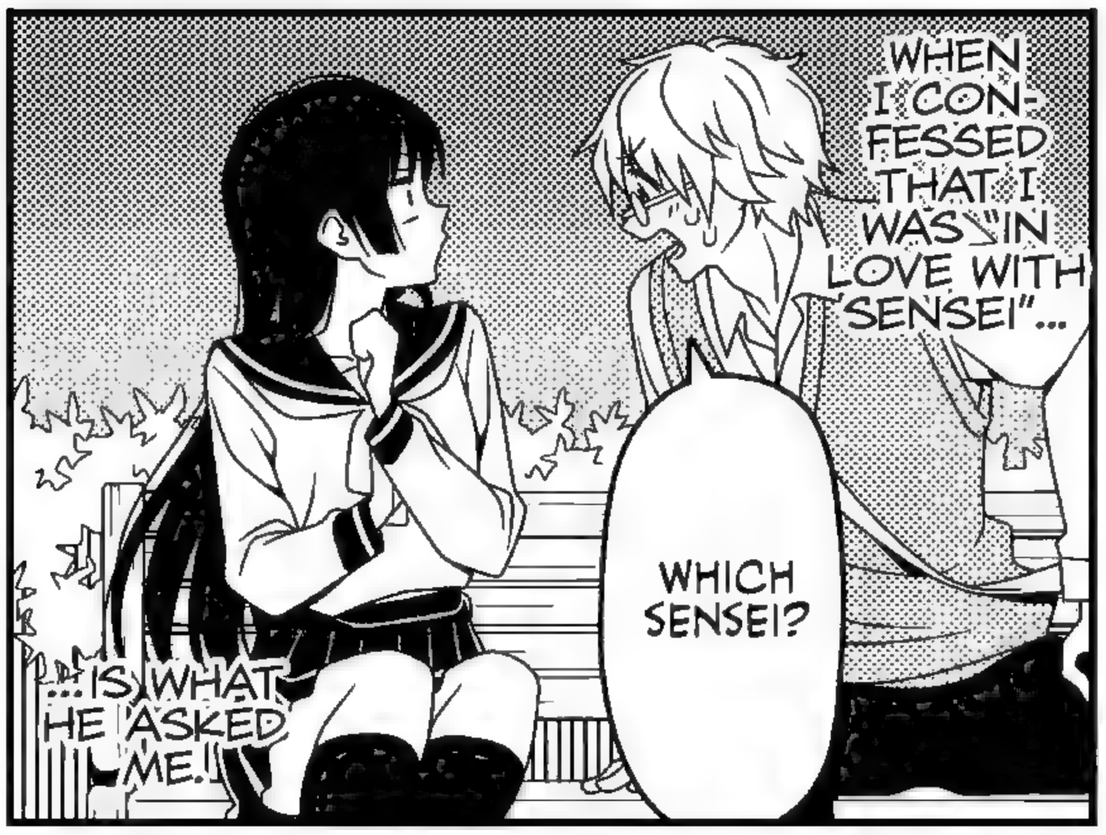
But at the time, I became very attached to this manga, and unlike with commercial magazines, with me taking on a lighthearted mindset that since there are no deadlines, then I don't care if it doesn't sell, I simply thought, "I want to draw more," and I continued to do so mostly as a hobby after losing my job. And while I was drawing, more people began to read it, until eventually it reached the eyes of a publisher. And so, a tankoban version came to be.

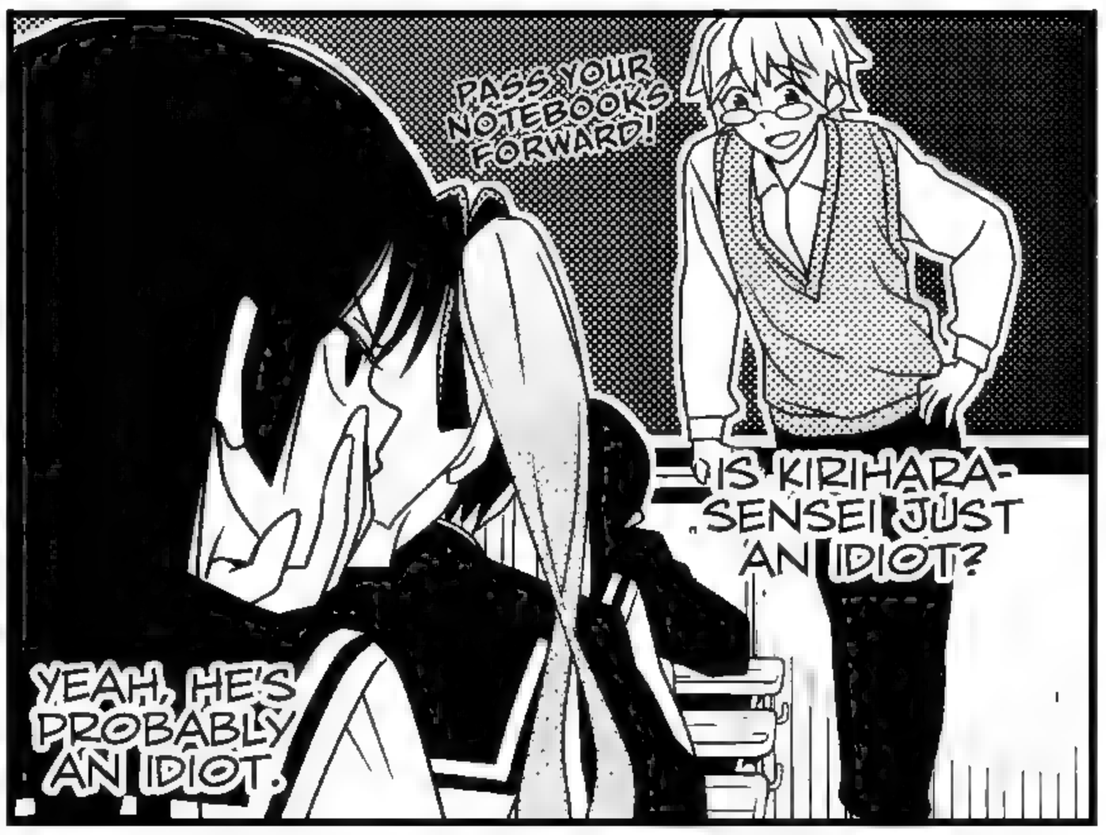
It's all thanks to everyone who continues to read this work. Thank you very much.

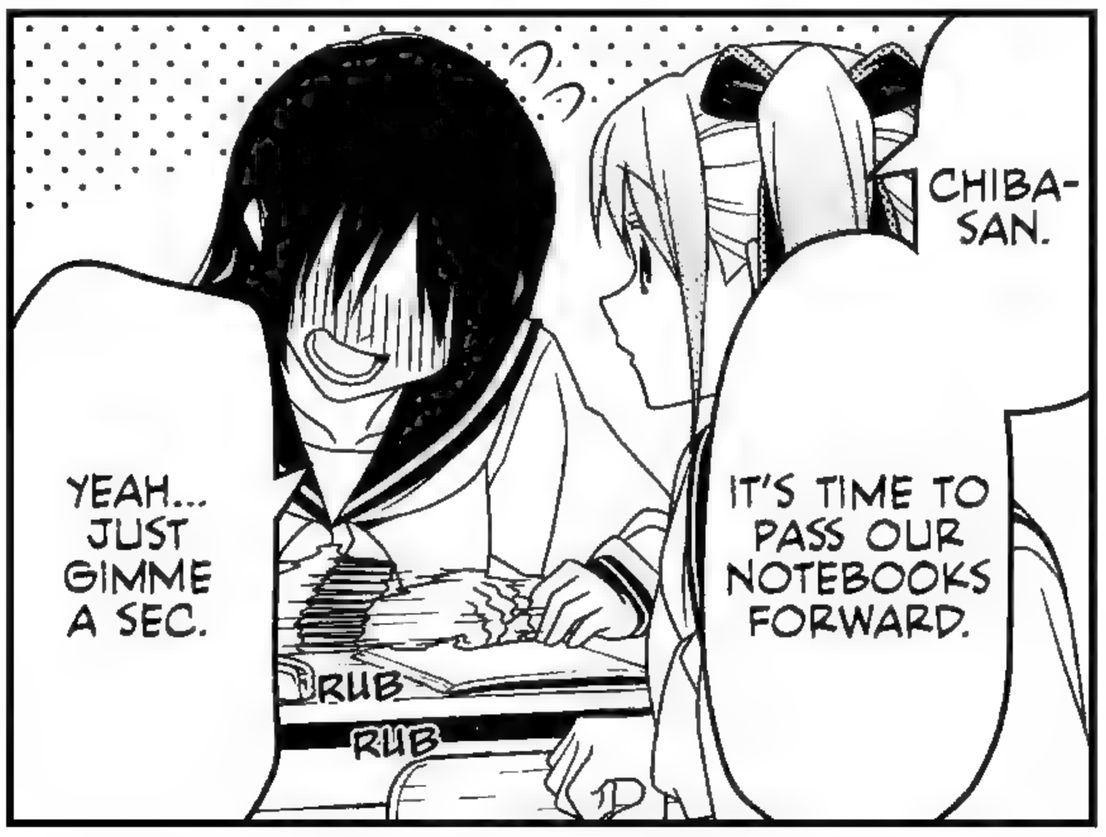
...Y'know, I talk as if I went through pretty rough times, but this all happened over the span of only a year or two. Yet somehow it feels like it's been five or six. I can't tell if it was a long time or not.

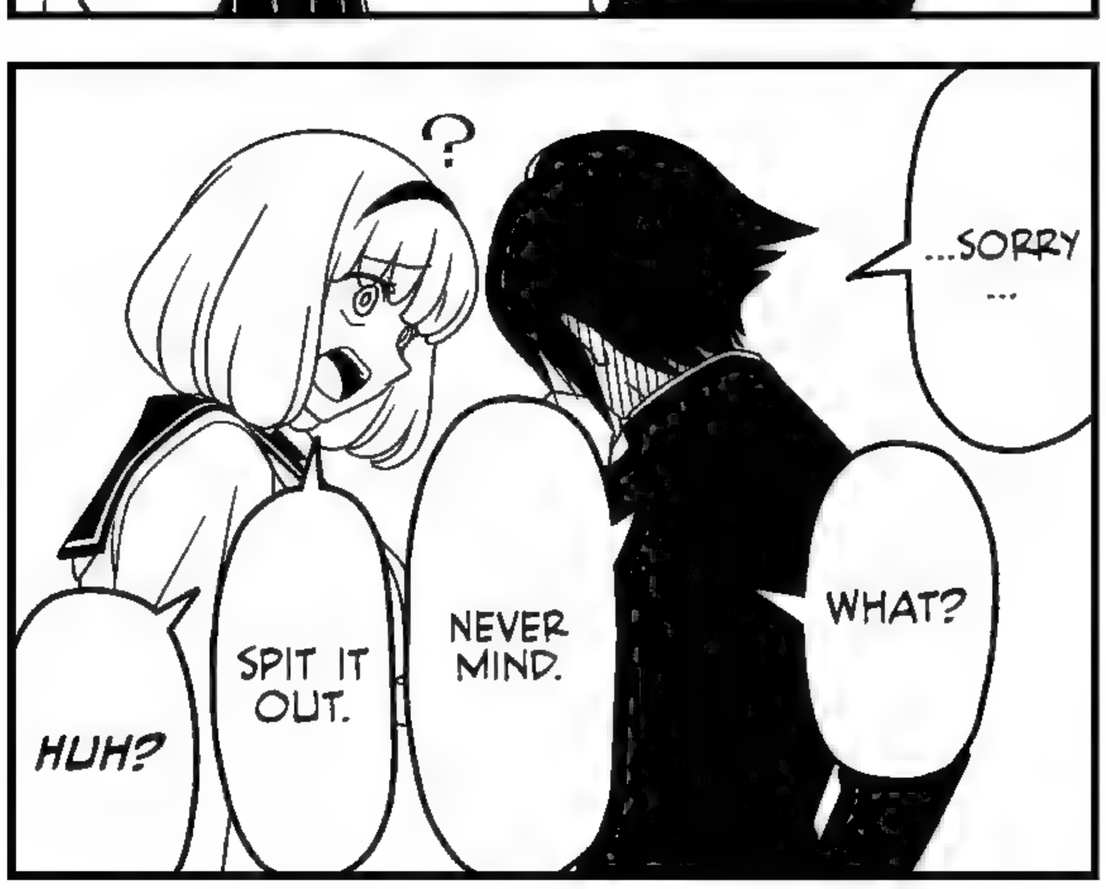
For this volume, I completely redrew "Confession," "Insincere Girl," "I'm Gonna Kill Sempai," "Woes of the Student Council President," and "Spica" for compilation purposes. That being said, it was also because I started drawing this manga in October of 2012, and now, two years later, the art has changed quite a bit compared to recent chapters.

If by any chance the readers don't notice any particular difference, then, well... I'll do my best.









Furthermore, I've presented this manga as an indie work a number of times, which included a character introductions segment that I decided to include in this tankoban, as well.

Themes used in this segment are picked from submissions by readers online and are decided via a ladder lottery. This time, among all the various ideas I received, I got such suggestions as, "A Word to Wakabayashi," "Favorite Animal," "Where You'd Like to Go on a Honeymoon," and many more. If anyone is interested in contributing for next time, please feel free to do so online. That being said, there isn't really any prize for having your theme used, just a sense of satisfaction after being picked. Very low budget!

By the way, whenever I publish the manga online, I always write afterword sections like this, but those are much more...slapped together. Those reading this afterword who are familiar with my usual writing style might be thinking, "Why is he talking about such tame stuff?" But seeing as this is a tankoban and all, I'd like to greet the first-time readers as the unsullied, pure Wakabayashi.

If anyone's interested in the usual, random Wakabayashi, then check out the web version of *Tsurezure Children*. It really is crude, though.

Also, people often get the wrong idea from the content of this manga, but I am in fact a man. I am not a female author. Even I sometimes think, "Man, it'd be something else if I were actually a beautiful female author," but unfortunately, I am a man.

Thank you for putting up with me for so long. I'll do my best to bring you manga that will put a smile on your face next time, as well. If you liked the book, I'd be delighted if you would look up *Tsurezure Children* online and suggest it to your friends and family.

until next time,

Toshiya Wakabayashi

character introduction

Q. "WHO DO YOU LIKE?"

Saki Kanda
Class 2-1, Soft Tennis Club

Well, that's... Next time! I'll tell you next time!

Haruhiko Takase
Class 2-1, Soccer Club

Huh?! Er... That's, uh... I'll tell you next time, too!

Alice Himemiya
Class 2-7, Cooking Club

Whaaat?! I'd die from embarrass-ment if I told you!

Yuki Minagawa
Class 2-1, Class Rep, Soft Tennis Club

I wonder who~

Hotaru Furuya
Class 1-3

HELL IF I KNOW!

Jun Furuya
Class 2-1, Class Rep, Broadcasting Club

HEY! HOTARU!

Ayane Matsuura
Class 2-4, Drama Club Vice President

I WAS REJECTED RECENTLY, SO...

Shinichi Katori
Class 3-5, Drama Club President

Gaze into the mirror. The answer lies before you. ☆

Kazuko Hosokawa
Class 2-4

(BA-DUM!)

Ryoko Kaji
Class 3-8

H-HUH?! HELL IF I KNOW! DROP DEAD!

Masafumi Akagi
Class 3-8, Student Council President

Ryoko-chan.

Chizuru Takano
Class 2-7, Brass Club

NO ONE IN PARTICULAR.

Takao Yamane
Class 2-7

FWAH?! E-E-E-EVEN IF I WERE TO LIKE ANYONE THAT'D ONLY BOTHER THEM... AT WORST, I COULD BE ACCUSED OF STALKING!

Chiyo Kurihara
Class 2-1, Cooking Club

UMM... WELL...

Takuro Sugawara
Class 2-4, Soccer Club

WELL... THAT IS TO SAY, I... TAKANO...

Hideki Yukawa
College Student, Astronomy Club Alumnus

Who knows?

Satsuki Sasahara
Class 3-2, Astronomy Club President

EH HE HE! WELL... THAT'S STILL A SECRET!

Yuuki Kaga
Class 1-6, Astronomy Club Vice Presid

(I WONDER IF SASAHARA-SEMPAI HAS ANYONE SHE LIKES?)

Kana Iijima
Class 2-4

Well, I mean, we're dating after all, so...

Sayaka Chiba
Class 2-7, Library Aide

Who could it be?

Takeru Goda
Class 2-4, Volleyball Club

•••

Ayaka Kamine
Class 2-4, Tea Ceremony Club

…
(UUUH!)

Satoshi Uehara
Class 3-2, Light Music Club Vice President

Those two definitely have a thing for each other.

Chiaki Uchimura
Class 2-4

Huh? What? What?

Yoichi Kirihara
Class 2-7 Homeroom Teacher, English Teacher

(I WONDER WHICH TEACHER IT IS CHIBA IS IN LOVE WITH. COULD IT BE SAKAMOTO-SENSEI, THE HISTORY TEACHER?)

Chihiro Soma
Class 1-3, Karate Club

Osu! There isn't anyone!

Erika Shibasaki
Class 3-8, Tea Ceremony Club President

SOMEONE I LIKE? THERE ISN'T ANYONE LIKE THAT.

Junhei Hattori
Class 3-2, Light Music Club

Yup.

Patricia Caulifield
Class 2-4, Karate Club

SOMEONE I LIKE? NOPE.

Keisuke Tsuji
Class 2-4

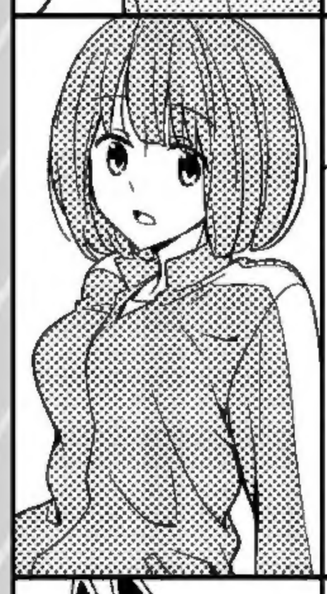
WHAT?!

Haruka Saejima
Class 3-5, Karate Club Captain

S-Soma?! What is that supposed to mean?!

Shinji Ubukata
Class 3-2, Light Music Club President

No one.



Kyoko Sano
Class 3-8, Tea Ceremony Club Vice President

I FEEL YOU.

Miss Wabisabi
Class ?-?, Light Music Club

EXCUSE ME, YOU ALL?

TSUREZURE CHILDREN

Tsuredure Children 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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